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Near East/South Asia Report

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

JOINT ARAB INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS DISCUSSED

London MEED in English 1 Nov 86 pp 15-16

[Text]

Decisions are expected soon about the future of five multi-million-dollar joint Arab industrial projects. These were discussed recently at the sixth conference of the Baghdad-based **Arab Industrial Development Organisation (AIDO)**; final recommendations are to be made by a committee headed by Syria's Industry Ministry undersecretary Abdullah Sallouti and referred for approval to the ministerial council (MEED 25:10:86).

The five schemes are:

□ a cotton spinning mill; the proposed site is Sudan and the estimated cost \$132.3 million. The mill will have an output of 25,000 tonnes of yarn a year. The study was done by AIDO, other Arab organisations and the UK's **Shirley Institute**

□ a pelletising unit for Mauritanian ore concentrates; its estimated cost is \$680 million. Annual output will be 14 million tonnes of treated ore, 6 million tonnes of concentrates and 5 million tonnes of pellets for export. AIDO updated the study with Mauritania's Mines & Industry Ministry and two other Mauritanian companies, **Societe Nationale d'Industrie Miniere-Societe d'Economie Mixte (SNIM-SEM)**, and **Societe Arabe des Industries Metallurgiques Mauritanie-Koweitienne (Samia)**

□ a high-grade steel works; the estimated cost is \$93 million. Production is forecast at 120,000 tonnes of steels a year. The study

for the works — to be built in Algeria, Egypt or Iraq — was done by Austria's

Austroplan

□ a factory making telephone exchanges; its estimated cost is \$100 million. The factory will produce exchanges with 250,000 lines, expandable to 400,000 lines; it could be built in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria or Jordan. The study was done by **British Telconsult**

□ a sheet glass plant in Morocco, Algeria or Tunisia; its estimated cost is \$80 million. Initial output will be 60,000 tonnes a year, with possible eventual production of 80,000 tonnes. Sweden's **Scandiaconsult** did the study.

Once the decision to go ahead has been given, the final sites will be chosen; these will depend on the facilities and privileges offered by the host countries, as well as investment guarantees.

Representatives from 15 countries attended the conference; also present were representatives of Arab aid funds, the Islamic Development Bank, the Al-Khobar-based **Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (Apicorp)**, the UN Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia, the UN Development Programme and the **Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation**.

In addition, the conference discussed reducing AIDO's annual budget from \$14 million to \$12 million.

/13046

CSO: 4400/57

EGYPT

SCHEMES TO UNDERMINE NATIONAL SECURITY FOILED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Oct 86 pp 1, 10

[Text] Lt General Zaki Badr, the minister of interior, said that there are schemes and attempts outside Egypt to undermine state security. Those schemes, he said, depended on a few elements inside for support. He added that security agencies were after all attempts to undermine security and stability in Egypt.

AL-AKHBAR newspaper has learned that the General Department for State Security Investigation had apprehended an extremist on his return from a trip abroad. He was carrying two packages, one of them containing 10,000 leaflets attacking Egyptian policy and inciting the public to revolt, taking advantage of the economic crisis in the country. The other package contained a highly explosive bomb which was detonated by explosives experts.

Lt General Badr met yesterday with students of the University of Mansurah. He was accompanied by Lt General Sa'd al-Shirbini, the governor of Daqahliyah, and Dr Kamal al-Din Ahmad, president of the University of Mansurah.

In his address to the students, Lt General Zaki Badr spoke about the current political situation and the climate of freedom and democracy enjoyed by everyone as well as current efforts to solve the economic problem.

The minister of interior cautioned the university students against schemes employed by certain elements, including the distortion of facts and dissemination of rumors, to create a climate of confusion and agitation. He called upon the students to diligently counter the rumors and excesses of the extremist elements to protect their present and future.

Lt General Badr stressed that the police was closely monitoring all unlawful and suspicious moves and is dealing with them firmly. He added that the police cooperated with top university officials to enforce law and order on campus. The duty of the university guard, he said, was to protect students and facilities and provide all available services and facilities to the students in a climate permeated by love and fraternity.

The cabinet minister began his tour with a visit yesterday to Damietta. He later met with security officers and men.

13257/12379
CSO: 4505/45

EGYPT

HAFIZ SALAMAH RECOUNTS 1973 ATTACK ON SUEZ

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Oct 86 p 8

[Interview with Hafiz Salamah by Salah Badiwi: "Hafiz Salamah Recounts the Story of Suez Steadfastness: Governor Announced City's Surrender, but We Refused and Decided to Resist to The End"; in Cairo, date not specified]

[Text] On 24 October Egypt celebrated Suez Day when the entire intrepid city, young and old, went out to express its rejection of the Israeli warning to surrender, teaching the Israeli enemy a lesson it would never forget. The will of belief and faith triumphed, that will forced enemy armored vehicles and tanks to collapse causing the enemy to be seized with fright pursued by humiliation and ignomy. They were led by the heroic martyr and the standard bearer of the Islamic Call in Suez, Shaykh Hafiz Salamah, leader of the popular resistance and chairman of the Islamic Guidance Society, who refused to have the executive powers surrender to the enemy and to stand in the way of the will to engage in holy war. On this great occasion, AL-SHA'B went to meet with Shaykh Hafiz Salamah to reminisce and record for history and coming generations heroic images of holy war when belief is deeply implanted in the hearts.

Who Is Hafiz Salamah?

Shaykh Hafiz Salamah was born on 6 December 1925 in the city of Suez. He participated in many national battles.

Following the abrogation of the 1936 treaty, he participated with the commandos [fedayeen] in attacking British camps and joined in the battles of Kfar Ahmad 'Abduh, al-Huways, and al-Muthallath. In the Second World War, he undertook civil defense action like moving the wounded and dead and removing rubble. In January 1944 he took part with Palestinian commandos in fighting the British and Zionists. The occupation authorities arrested and jailed him on the charge of conspiring with anti-British regime elements there. In 1948 he was yearning to take part in the Palestine war, but his superiors advised him to prepare and equip the fighters with whatever weapons and supplies he could get from British camps in the Canal Zone in observance of the Prophetic saying "he who equips an invader has himself invaded."

Colonel Salah Salim refused to give him arms like other young men. The struggling shaykh, however, could not stand the enemy's raid on his city, so he went to the anti-aircraft battery, asking the commanding officer's permission to help carry ammunition to the troops. During the raid, Salah, was lying on the ground watching enemy aircraft engines through a telescope. Witnessing his bravery, the commanding officer ordered that arms be issued to him immediately. At that time Shaykh Hafiz was wearing his famous fez. As for the 1967 battle, however, Hafiz Salamah was detained, as he says, at Ward 12 in Abu Za'bal where, it was alleged, the prisoners would stay there for life at 'Abd-al-Nasir's instructions due to the threat they posed to the regime. But when Hafiz Salamah learned of the setback, he submitted a request to the warden imploring him in behalf of his colleagues to release them so as to join the fight against the enemy and return to prison when the war ended. The request was rejected.

Divine providence, however, intended that Hafiz Salamah leave prison on 31 December 1967, so he set out to form the Religious Awareness Legions in 1968 and participated in the war of attrition against the enemy. In the Ramadan war, he and his brothers helped receive the wounded to distribute gifts and Qur'ans to the triumphant Egyptian troops. He attended to the dead and moved the wounded to the rear lines.

Popular Resistance Only

[Question] Can you recount the story of the popular resistance's triumph over the Israeli enemy during the Suez blockade?

[Answer] Al-Sadat began shedding crocodile tears when the breach occurred, especially when it intensified and the Israeli forces penetrated the canal's west bank after he had been boasting of victory and taking credit for it. He said it was not in his power to fight America for the fighting troops were American, from tanks to aircraft. He claimed that he had figured on fighting Israel, not America, alleging at the time that the Security Council passed a cease-fire resolution, but the Israeli forces violated it and, on 24 October 1973, attacked the city of Suez. Therefore we began setting up ambushes and deploying the brothers over them while we had no arms or ammunition, but, with God's help, we were able to get weapons from the army troops and the wounded and whatever enemy weapons we captured during clashes with the enemy, especially since some of our brothers were trained in the use of arms.

On the ground of beloved Suez we shattered the myth of the invincible army and the myth of Anwar al-Sadat, particularly his fear of the American army.

Therefore, it was not strange that the popular resistance should destroy 18 enemy tanks during the attack on Suez on 24 October, forcing the enemy to retreat. But after God Almighty helped us force the attacking troops to withdraw, the enemy attacked again the following day, 25 October, so the popular resistance encountered them at the edge of the city, destroying six of their tanks and stopping them from entering the city.

Then the Jewish commander resorted to a ruse when he stormed the Suez Oil Processing Company and asked engineer Sa'd al-Haki' to call the governor of Suez, which he did. The Israeli commander told the governor that his army wished to occupy the city and he gave him half an hour to think about it and to proceed with his leadership to the stadium, raising the white flag as a sign of surrender to the Jews. Although the governor asked the Israeli commander for more time to consult Cairo, the commander refused his request saying that in half an hour the Israeli air force and artillery would destroy the city if they failed to comply. The governor of Suez did consult with the police commands and more than 18 officers from army command at the headquarters of the Islamic Guidance Society, the then center of operations. The area was commanded by a brigadier general.

I learned that all sides agreed to surrender. I received the news when I was preparing ammunition and deploying elements to resist the enemy. But I quickly returned to the society's headquarters where I vehemently refused to surrender.

The governor told the brigadier general "this is a clergyman who has nothing to do with military matters, so, by God, bring the white flag and come with me." Thereupon I said "you surrender yourselves to the enemy but the people of Suez will not surrender." Sure enough, everyone submitted to Shaykh Salamah's point of view. The enemy loudspeakers began calling on the citizens to go to the stadium to surrender because the governor had turned the city over to the Israeli army.

Shaykh Hafiz fixed his glance as though he was recalling something, then added: I grabbed the loudspeaker to reply to the enemy loudspeaker and issued a counterwarning, saying: Beware you cowards because we are waiting for you in Suez and if you manage to enter it, its pure earth needs to be watered with your dirty blood. However time went by and the cowards failed to carry out their warning, retreating in disappointment."

Testimony and Salvation

While I was with him at the Guidance Society headquarters, I saw photos of five martyrs hanging on the walls. So I asked Shaykh Salamah about them and he said:

These five martyrs whose photos and names you see on the Martyrs Mosque were members of the Prophetic Guidance Society who grew up in this mosque. They met their Maker during their encounter with the enemy on 24 and 25 October 1973 in Suez. They are: Ibrahim Muhammad Sulayman, Ahmad Abu Hashim, Fayiz Hafiz, Ashraf 'Abd-al-Dayim, and Ibrahim Muhammad Yusuf. The society has built five mosques throughout the city of Suez in their memory and has named schools after them.

At the Ibrahim Muhammad Sulayman Mosque in Suez, Shaykh Hafiz Salamah talked to the people, saying: This mosque, whose concrete foundations were laid in honor of that martyr who destroyed the first tank directed against the city of Suez, thus terrorizing the Israeli troops who were certain of the absence of resistance but were surprised by the hellfire consuming them, God Almighty

willed that Ibrahim be killed in action, but before his death, he had asked me to bury him myself. However, I was unable to fulfill his wish because I was busy finding an army and ammunition for the freedom fighters and he was buried with the other martyrs. We had the chance to rebury him 3 months later and, while on the way to the cemetery, I brought a shroud and scent to dress him. Because he used to be keen on dental hygiene, his teeth were snow white and his beard looked as if he had just stepped out of the shower. His body was still intact 90 days after his death. I told the people gathered around the grave "anyone who wants to see the face of a loyal martyr, look at Ibrahim Sulayman."

[Question] Faith and belief were elements of victory in the Ramadan battle.

[Answer] Colonel Fu'ad Basyuni was hit by shrapnel and the soldier who was driving the car sustained deep wounds. He nonetheless managed to drive his commander to the hospital. At the hospital, the victim felt very thirsty, but realizing that breaking the fast was not for another 30 minutes, he refused to drink water at the doctor's orders and all attempts to make him break his fast failed.

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CSO: 4504/52

EGYPT

BRIEFS

PLANS TO RELOCATE MINISTRIES--Plans are underway to relocate from Cairo all ministries and organizations causing congestion in the capital and to move them to newly established cities as part of the new 5-year Development Plan. The plan calls for curbing migration to Cairo from the provinces. The governorate of Cairo has drawn up a general framework of investment projects to be carried out under the new plan. They include: Defining measures for promoting immigration into the new zones and psychologically preparing the populace for urban development in the desert away from the high population density in downtown Cairo; setting apart specific periods during the week for serving the needs of out-of-Cairo citizens; prohibiting haphazard creation of new residential zones in the capital as well as any encroachment on state-owned lands; regulating the sale of subsidized land for construction and admission to schools; speeding up preparation of the national identification number and residence data for each citizen, issuing ration cards for families, and assessing Cairo's needs for manpower. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Oct 86 p 1] 13257/12379

TOURIST AGREEMENT WITH WEST GERMANY--The first tourist group from West Germany arrived in Aswan yesterday in implementation of a tourist agreement between Egypt and West Germany. Under the terms of this agreement 35 tours, comprising 4,000 tourists, will be organized between Aswan and Stuttgart until next June. The private plane, which arrived in Aswan yesterday, was carrying 130 German tourists, Samir Halawah, member of the board of directors of Misr Tours, said this was the first time a tour like this was organized in West Germany. It marked a new experience ensuring that all expenses incurred by the tourists, including fares on Egyptian airlines, will be paid in free currency and delivered to the Egyptian treasury. He added that Misr Tours initiated this experiment through its office in Frankfurt with the cooperation of a foreign services company which does the ticketing and oversees all arrangements made for the success of the tour. Preparations had been underway in Aswan for the new tourist season. Under the plan of the governorate of Aswan all services will be provided to the tourists while hotel fees will be reduced to attract more tourists. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Oct 86 p 6] 13257/12379

DECISION TO TRY PLOTTERS CHALLENGED--Attorneys Dr 'Abd-al-Halim Mandur, Dr Muhammad 'Asfur, Yusuf Saqr and Muhammad Fahim Saturday introduced a motion before the Administrative Court of the State Council challenging presidential order No 2 of 1986 concerning the formation of an emergency state security

tribunal of military magistrates to try case No 431 of 1986. In this case more than 100 persons, including five military officers, are charged with the formation of an underground network to stage a coup d'etat and set up an Islamic state. [Text] [Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 29 Oct 86 p 1] 13257/12379

DISAPPEARANCE OF SUSPECTS' FILES--The Supreme State Security Prosecution is secretly investigating the disappearance of a number of interrogation files in the torture case in which 42 police officers are involved. The disappearance of those files occurred following promises made to police generals by Lt General Zaki Badr during intensive meetings held prior to the Shura Council elections. According to those promises no officers implicated in the case would be penalized. The promises had been made after a number of accused officers had expressed anger for being interrogated. They asserted to the minister of interior that they were only carrying out higher orders and that they were not to blame. [Text] [Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 14 Oct 86 p 20] 13257/12379

MINISTERS IMPLICATED IN BRIBERY CASE--Investigation conducted by the Northern Cairo Prosecution Office in the case of Sa'id 'Abd-al-Khaliq, the managing editor of AL-WAFD newspaper, revealed that a number of government officials were possibly implicated. According to the defendants' testimonies, the required bribery sum was 200,000 Egyptian pounds, of which one half was to go to Minister of Housing Eng 'Abd-al-Rahman Labib, and the other half was to go to the managing editor of AL-WAFD newspaper and to Muhammad Ahmad Abu-al-Fath, director of advertisement and Faruq 'Aql, son-in-law of Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din. Investigators are expected within the next few hours to order a ban on news coverage of this case until the investigation has ended. [Text] [Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 14 Oct 86 p 20] 13257/12379

CSO: 4504/45

IRAQ

INDIAN CONTRACTORS PROTEST DELAYS IN PAYMENTS

London MEED in English 8 Nov 86 p 19

[Text] Indian contractors are losing patience with Bagndad's continuing payments delays. About \$25 million in cash has still to be paid on 26 projects that were not included in the 1983 government-to-government deferred payment accord. Clients have failed to meet obligations on projects that have been completed and in use for some years: neither have they paid retention money or advance payments on more recent schemes.

The Indian companies have demanded immediate release of the payments, plus interest accrued over the delay period. Their joint representation was put, through the Overseas Construction Council of India, to the Iraqi delegation in New Delhi for the 21-25 October joint commission meeting (MEED 1:11:86). As an alternative, the companies say these projects could be brought into the 1983 accord, or subsequent deferred payment agreements.

The Iraqi delegation has been made aware of several problems standing in the way of projects covered by deferment agreements. For example, much of the foreign currency portion of mobilisation

advances due for the Hilla and Mosul water supply scheme contracts and the Basra sewerage project has still to be released (MEED 1:3:86; 24:8:85).

The joint petition also says that "due to one pretext or another, and on totally untenable grounds, the Iraqi clients are delaying indefinitely the finalisation of formalities of giving FCCs (final completion certificates), even after the maintenance period is over, following satisfactory completion of work."

Clients are also accused of violating the contractual provision whereby 50 per cent of retention bonds are refunded. The Iraqis are now insisting on submission of income tax and customs clearance certificates, before they will release the money. "In this way, even the retention money deducted prior to 3 August 1983 has not been refunded," the Indian firms say.

The companies complain that "in the recent past, it has been noticed that the Iraqi authorities impose penalties on Indian contractors on some pretext." This contravenes the understanding between the two governments that those firms which

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CSO: 4400/58

IRAQ

PAPER REVIEWS ACTIVITIES OF CHINESE CONTRACTORS

London MEED in English 8 Nov 86 p 19

[Article by Jim Bodgener]

[Text]

CHINESE contractors, like their foreign counterparts, are suffering from the Middle East recession. But most would agree with the executive from China Metallurgical Construction Corporation who believes that oil revenues — even at their new, reduced levels — continue to make the region an important international market. Chinese companies are looking particularly to an end to the Gulf war and the expected reconstruction boom to follow — and have already built up a substantial presence in Iraq.

About one-third of all overseas work awarded to Chinese contractors is accounted for by China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC). In 1985, 80 per cent — or nearly \$400 million — of CSCEC's new contract awards came from the Middle East; so far in 1986, its Middle East orders have amounted to \$68 million.

Like other Chinese contractors, it is pressing on in Iraq, despite Baghdad's cash shortages. It is negotiating for orders amounting to roughly \$450 million.

The Iraqi work includes a substantial number of labour supply contracts — until 1984, the main source of Iraqi business for Chinese contractors. A total of 423 labour co-operation contracts, involving more than 60,000 Chinese labourers, was signed between 1979-86, generating \$530 million in much-needed foreign exchange on turnover of \$840 million. At present, more than 20,000 Chinese are working on 143 Iraqi projects (MEED 2:8:86, page 11).

Another contractor successfully riding out the recession is China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC). In 1985, it saw Middle East turnover decline to \$45 million; in the nine months to September 1986, new contracts totalled \$105 million,

says business promotion manager Wu Aiyuan.

The company, which is most active in Iraq, Kuwait, Libya and Djibouti, employs 3,000 Chinese technicians throughout the area. At present, it is tendering for operation and maintenance (O&M) contracts for government buildings, factories, roads and railways, Wu says.

Specialised contractors, such as China International Water & Electric Corporation (CWE), are also maintaining their market share. It recently won a ID 3.9 million (\$12.6 million) contract to rebuild Iraq's Dabbis dam. The company's total regional turnover in 1985 was \$25 million. Company director Wang Shifang believes it is possible to develop engineering and contracting business in the Middle East, despite the recession, as water and power projects are still needed in the area. CWE, which employs 810 people in the region, has invested in sizable amounts of plant, Wang says.

Increasingly fierce competition from Asian and Middle East companies for general civil engineering work at the lower end of the construction market has failed to dislodge China Road & Bridge Engineering Company (CRBEC), which employs 2,500 people in the Middle East. In a period when foreign orders generally have been declining, the region has proved an indispensable income-generator.

In 1985, foreign turnover amounted to \$56 million, compared with \$63 million one year previously; the Middle East accounted for \$33 million. Foreign orders fell by 51 per cent, to \$98 million. So far this year, CRBEC has picked up Middle East orders totalling about \$40 million.

IRAQ

YUGOSLAV FIRM WINS NAVIGATION LOCK CONTRACT

London MEED in English 8 Nov 86 pp 19-20

[Text] A further order for work on the main outfall drain (MOD) has gone to Yugoslavia's **Energoprojekt**. Contract 2M — for a navigation lock at Nasiriya — was signed with the Irrigation Ministry on 25 October; it is valued at \$47 million. Energoprojekt will do detailed designs and construction. Work is expected to take two years.

This is Energoprojekt's first large construction contract since 1984, when it completed building work in Baghdad's Khulafa street and the Badra-Jassan irrigation project.

Payment terms for the lock order call for a 40 per cent local currency portion. Of the foreign currency element, 15 per cent will be paid in cash; the rest comprises a credit arranged by the **Yugoslav Bank for International Economic Co-operation** and Energoprojekt. In the past, Yugoslav companies have had to take oil in part-payment (MEED 21:9:85, page 21).

Contract 2M forms part of MOD's southern stage, which extends over 170

kilometres from Nasiriya to the Shatt al-Arab. The \$230 million main contract was awarded in 1982 to a West German joint venture of **Polensky & Zoellner** and **Philipp Holzmann**; work was due for completion by the end of 1986.

There was also a series of seven contracts for associated structures.

Contracts 1M and 3M, together valued at \$351.9 million, were awarded in 1984 to Brazil's **Construtora Mendes Junior**. Work entails building a tunnel to carry the MOD under the Euphrates river, plus a main pumping station, and road and rail bridges.

Contracts 4M-7M comprise further navigation locks, bridges, a drainage network and a service network along the length of the MOD. These are not thought to have been awarded yet (MEED 21:5:82). All work is covered by the 1973 Law 157, which accords priority to large-scale projects.

/13046

CSO: 4400/58

IRAQ

ECONOMIC GROWTH CITED AT TRADE FAIR

London MEED in English 8 Nov 86 pp 18-19

[Text] Assurances of improved economic performance, and a pledge to continue allocating resources for projects involving large-scale imports of capital goods, were given at the opening of the 23rd Baghdad international trade fair on 1 November. In the forthcoming 1987 import plan — the value of which is unspecified — about 33 per cent has been allocated for consumer goods and the remainder for capital goods and related equipment.

Official committees are now contacting exhibitors at the fair to conclude import deals. Companies from 57 countries are participating in the event. First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan, who opened the fair, said strong ties with Iraq's economic and trade partners have helped to alleviate the country's difficulties.

Ramadan said the government had taken the necessary measures to protect the economy against a war of attrition by first assuring the requirements for national defence, and then providing for people's basic needs while continuing construction and growth, with the emphasis on strategic economic projects.

Economic growth has been achieved despite the war, Ramadan said. Annual growth in national income has averaged 13.7 per cent between 1968-85, with per capita annual income rising from ID 91.60 (\$295) in 1968, to ID 760 (\$2,450) in 1984 and ID 809 (\$2,610) in 1985.

In agriculture, the total area planted increased from 3.2 million hectares in 1984 to 3.6 million hectares in 1985. The planted

area in 1975 was 2.4 million hectares. Total agricultural production was 13.9 million tons in 1985. This compares with 13.1 million tons in 1984 and 7.7 million tons in 1975.

Investment in the industrial sector grew to ID 752.5 million (\$2,427.4 million) in 1985, from ID 39.5 million (\$127.4 million) in 1968, a rise of 18.9 per cent. Ramadan added that manufacturing industry's output, at current prices, had risen to ID 2,891 million (\$9,325 million) in 1985, from ID 266.5 million (\$860 million) in 1968 — an average compound growth of 15.1 per cent.

Officials have confirmed that Iraq has achieved substantial expansion in industrial output, through its policy of building an industrial base to reduce dependence on oil exports. Among projects implemented since the beginning of the war are three cement works and one extension, with a total annual capacity of 11 million tons; two more works, with a total annual production capacity of 3 million tons, are still being built. Experimental operation has begun of 10 automated brick works, with total annual capacity of 1,000 million bricks; seven thermostone brick works have been opened.

Other industries set up include mosaic and tile factories, three large clothing factories, five dairies, and factories to produce soft drinks and vegetable oil. Four new mixed-sector companies are in the process of being established.

/13046

CSO: 4400/58

IRAQ

BRIEFS

SOVIET-FUNDED POWER STATION--A 1,200-MW station at Yusitiya is being discussed with the Soviet Union's Technopromexport. It is one of three power schemes covered by the 1986-90 economic co-operation agreement signed with Moscow earlier this year. The others are an 800-MW power station in Mosul, and a 300 to 400-MW hydroelectricity project on the Euphrates river near Baghdad, the official Soviet news agency TASS reports. [Text] [London MEED in English 1 Nov 86 p 15] /13046

BRIBERY PENALTIES--Government employees who accept bribes now face fines of ID 500-5,000 (\$1,600-16,000). The penalties will be imposed on those "who accept, directly or indirectly, gifts, interest or privileges to carry out their duties as employees," a Revolution Command Council (RCC) decision says. Six local businessmen and the former Oil Ministry undersecretary were recently executed for accepting commissions (MEED 11:10:86). [Text] [London MEED in English 1 Nov 86 p 16] /13046

AVAILABILITY OF CONSUMER GOODS--Consumer goods are to be made available in 1987 from reserve stores, trade officials have decided. At an October meeting held to discuss the 1987 import plan, they agreed that the main aim should be to provide essential consumer items, as well as the raw materials needed for local industry. First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan, who chaired the meeting, emphasised that solutions must be found to the problems plaguing the marketing and distribution systems. [Text] [London MEED in English 1 Nov 86 p 16] /13046

TELEPHONE LINES--About 2,500 lines are to be added to Kirkuk telephone exchange, the Transport & Communications Ministry says. [Text] [London MEED in English 1 Nov 86 p 16] /13046

CSO: 4400/57

ISRAEL

FORMER CABINET MEMBER DAN MERIDOR INTERVIEWED

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Sep 86 pp 35-37

[Interview with Dan Meridor, former cabinet secretary under Menahem Begin and Yitzhaq Shamir, by Eti Hasid; date and place not specified]

[Text] A group picture: Dan Meridor, 2 weeks ago, on the balcony of the presidential palace in Alexandria. With Peres, Weizman, and Eban. A wall-to-wall smile, a light in the eyes. The smile of the television Meridor. He seems to be allright in this stately scene. More than all right. Comfortable, attentive, involved, in the clouds. Even the amusing stateliness of Weizman, who gives the camera an unruly half-profile, does not appear to be as good as the scion of the fighting family who was thrust upon the balcony through the kindness of Peres. Why does he need the Milo-like frenzied running around when he has such a face? And truthfully, what did Meridor do that has merited his standing on the balcony in Alexandria? His fluttering forelock on national television.

[Question] Why did Peres take you and not David Levi?

[Answer] Well . . . You will have to ask him.

[Question] How was the suggestion born to have you accompany the Prime Minister?

[Answer] A day before he telephoned me at home and asked me if I was ready to accompany him.

[Question] And your immediate answer?

[Answer] Thank you very much. I'll need a few minutes. I contacted and discussed this with the person I wanted. After all, I am not a private person.

[Question] Did you telephone Shamir?

[Answer] Certainly not Shulamit Aloni. I received concurrence with wishes for a good trip. I called back and said that I agreed.

For the purpose of the interview one of the lawyers left his room in the law office where Meridor works. Meridor (39), soft grey tereline pants, no-iron white shirt, dark tie. Light-blue jacket that he puts on when going out, like the kind also worn by reception clerks in hotels. He looks at you with the eyes of a frozen fish, that is to say you will see almost no changing light and shadow in them. He frequently smiles pleasantly. He makes you feel allright but that he does not have too much time for you. In general, he does not like all this tumult. It is easier for him to express his positions and that of the party in clear, flowing, and reasoned language. No to an international conference, no to Palestinian self-determination. Essentially in favor of the imposition of Israeli law on the Arabs of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. He is incredible. During a conversation of a little more than one hour he was called from Shamir's office three or four times. He records his meetings in small handwriting in a densely written diary.

Party: Stunned, Powerless

Question: Where was Meridor when Gaston Malka went to the rostrum to attack Ronnie Milo who intended to save the honor of Shamir after Lavi's inflammatory speech.

Answer: He was sitting next to Shamir stunned and powerless. Why? Because Meridor is not cut from the same human material as Milo. Simply not. Meridor can become asthmatic next to people like Malka.

[Question] It was difficult to locate you at the last Herut convention.

[Answer] I was not there. . . I was, I was.

[Question] You did not quarrel with Gaston Malka, for example.

[Answer] It is painful to see things that should not be seen. I believe that eventually the correct decisions will be taken.

[Question] It is possible that Shamir, already not a young man, will stop running in the near future. What then, David Levi?

[Answer] The prime minister from Herut will be Shamir. All the speculations about what will happen later are good for headlines.

[Question] In the party they love to brandish you as the layer of fat that conceals, as it were, the "Buhbuts" who are doing the shameful things. What is your opinion?

[Answer] I don't make much of that. In sum, the Herut movement, more than any other party, is a mosaic very representative of public groups. I do not like the expressions "Buhbuts" and "Rabinoviches." This is not a matter of ethnic groups.

Childhood: A Little "Good Boy"

Meridor lives on the second floor of a Jerusalem stone house on Ben-Maimon Ave. He spent his childhood in this house. Now together with his wife, Li'ora, an economist at the Bank of Israel, he is rearing three children there. Rehavya, a Jerusalem aristocratic development, beautiful stone houses, shaded with palm trees all over the landscape. German aristocracy. The Revisionist residents were a tiny minority in the development. The family of Professor Rivlin (the children Rubi Rivlin, the chairman of the Herut branch in Jerusalem, and Lazi Rivlin) lived across from the Meridors. The family of Professor Neuman, a famous surgeon, the father of Dani Neuman, a soccer player. There were also Doctor Altman who was the chairman of the Revisionists and the Netanyahu family, but that was about it. The children in Rehavya went to the scouts, not to Betar. This was also true of the Meridors. They had a clearly Mapai orientation in the Hebrew secondary school. Rubi Rivlin, older than Meridor, remembers himself being pursued by the Mapainiks in the secondary school. In Meridor's days the sting was blunted. They studied piano and classic ballet with the best private teachers, European refugees. They accompanied their parents to concerts. Between 2 and 4 oclock they were scolded if they dared whistle too loudly. In this respect, Dan Meridor was no different. It is not possible to be average between the Musrara or Qatamonim neighborhoods and Rehavya. The Syrian-African rift divides the neighborhoods. It was only years later that the Panthers were born.

Meridor completed secondary school, specializing in the exact sciences, in 1965 together with Amos Kollek. Hulda Raz, a Bible teacher: "A delightful child. Always clean and neat. He had to write a Bible paper on the personality that influenced him more than any one else. Dan chose the prophet Hananya Ben 'Azur who encourages the people to revolt despite the fact that it is not the official line. He said that this was the personality he loved the most because he was faithful to his principles to the end."

In the neighborhood he is remembered as a child who was not mischievous and not wild, polite, neat, and who did not run around on the street until the late hours. Rubi Rivlin: "When I was in the army, he was still in underpants. His parents were cultured people. It is as if they took him in a test tube and made him."

[Question] He was a good boy?

[Answer] Rather good, yes. There was a certain time when he tried to play soccer, but he did not excel in the sport. He was not a little fat boy. He was handsome. He always read more.

[Question] A snob?

[Answer] No. It was the atmosphere at home. His grandfather and grandmother were somewhat elitist. I still remember that the "anemones" [nickname for troops of the British 6th Armored Division during the time of the Mandate who wore red berets] came to arrest his father. They surrounded the entire neighborhood.

Parents: Father a Betar Member, Mother a Lecturer

Meridor naturally belongs to the Revisionist aristocracy, the basis of which is the fighting family. His father, Eliyahu Meridor, was born in Russia and immigrated here from Poland in 1936. He was active in Betar, Hebraicized his name from Vyuzhuvulski to Meridor after one of the sons of Samson in the novel "Samson" by Jabotinsky. A neighbor: "An unusually attractive boy, a very handsome man, a strong personality." He studied law at Hebrew University. Afterwards: "Companies of the [Western] Wall," undergrounds, exile in Eritrea, Egypt, and Sudan, command of the Irgun Tzva'i Le'umi [National Military Organization] in Jerusalem. He lost an eye in the battle for Shaykh Jarrah. He subsequently was chairman of the Herut branch in Jerusalem and a member of the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Knessets. The back benches. Anti-religious. Yehi'el Kadishai: "I'll give you an example of his sense of humor. Before the 1965 elections a picture of Ben-Gurion standing with Peres next to a Shavit 2 missile appeared in a textbook. Meridor posed an official question to Minister of Education and Culture Zalman Eren: "'Mr Minister, the icons Ben-Gurion and Peres appear in such and such a textbook. What are these icons doing in a textbook?' The minister of education did not respond. After 21 days he sent him a reminder, and he also did not answer it. After another 21 days he turned to the speaker of the Knesset: 'Mr Speaker of the Knesset, 'he wrote,'according to the calendar that I have in my hand, 42 days have already passed since the question was posed. I request the speaker to ask the minister of education if 42 days have passed also in accordance with his calendar.'"

Ra'anana Meridor, Dan's mother, is a lecturer in classical languages at the Hebrew University. An acquaintance describes her as "hard." After the father died she managed the family affairs. After Dan are two sisters, Avital, a biologist, and Hagit, a doctor, and a brother, Sali, who is active in the party organization and is one of the founders of Kfar Adumim.

[Question] What kind of house was it?

[Answer] Kadishai: "Everything you want. Torah, wisdom, culture, and music. To this day Dan is an expert in operas that I cannot stand."

[Question] And is he, like a true prince, destined for greatness in politics?

[Answer] Princes, princes. You are using concepts from the world of royalty. His father was not a king, and he is not a prince.

Meridor died in 1966 from leukemia at the age of 52. Eventually the young Meridor inherited the law office of his father. It takes a great effort for him to maintain a dry, matter-of-fact attitude when he speaks about his father.

[Question] Would your father have felt good about what is happening in the party today?

[Answer] My father died shortly before the Six Day War. He did not live to

see the realization of his dreams. A liberated Jerusalem, a liberated Israel. He knew that it would happen. He always taught us that it was only a question of time. We would go to look at Jerusalem, where we could not go, from every place.

[Question] From where?

[Answer] From Mt. Zion on the 9th of Av, Notre Dame, and Abu Tor.

[Question] What would he say exactly?

[Answer] I do not like to bring that up. It seems to me too nostalgic, too saccharine.

[Question] Amazing. This nostalgic pathos is one of the most murderous fragmentation bombs that the Likud has, that Begin had.

[Answer] Everyone has his own style. I don't like to play on such strings. In any event, after the Six Day War many people came to our home and told us that they were sorry that father did not live to see this. He also did not see the Herut Movement go from the opposition to the party in power.

[Question] Was Begin one of those who came to your home?

[Answer] Yes, but not on a weekly or daily basis in contrast to many stories that are told.

Career: Extremely Close to Begin

Not one of the other princes, 'Uzi Landau, Rahel Meridor-Kremerman, Ehud Olmert, and Yosi Ahime'ir did not have the no-intermediary closeness to Begin that Meridor did. When he served Begin as the secretary of the cabinet, his activities went beyond inter-ministry coordination. Even since Begin left, Meridor has kept in touch with him. Every Friday he walks up Tzemah Street and sits alongside Begin's bed.

[Question] Will you write a book one day on your exclusive meetings with him?

[Answer] Ummm. . .

[Question] Tell me in percentages how much is true of all the things they tell about Begin?

[Answer] I will not address that.

[Question] How did the clique between you develop?

[Answer] I worked with him. A person like Begin rises to the forefront of a people once in generations. I see no one with this level of humanity, culture, and leadership. I had the good fortune to work with Begin. I learned much.

[Question] Can it be said that you moved only partially from Begin to Shamir?

[Answer] I was the cabinet secretary during Begin's period and afterward during Shamir's period. I had the good fortune to work very closely with both of them. I saw how Shamir functioned as prime minister, and I think that he did excellently. I definitely support Shamir as the number-one man of the movement.

If you open doors hidden in the inner recesses of Meridor, you are likely to find Benny Begin bent over documents, consulting. The young Begin is close to Meridor. Meridor persuaded him to come to the "pyre" during the not-so-glorious convention. When the grenade exploded near Emil Grinzwieg at the Peace Now demonstration, Meridor called Begin the son to Begin the father, and the child influenced his father to go out to the reporters and express his condemnation. During the doctors strike Meridor tried to mediate between Shostak and Aridor. Benny Begin also tried. One day they found him in Meridor's office leafing through papers. They spoke then about the "Yisra'el Galili of the Likud." They say that he is trying to serve as a link between Shamir and Begin and is not succeeding. It is not clear why.

[Question] Was it your idea to bring Benny Begin to the "pyre?"

[Answer] I disagree with the statement. I was very happy that he was involved, and I will be very happy if he will be involved in the Herut Movement in the future.

[Question] Are you persuading him in this matter?

[Answer] Drop the subject.

Appearance: Polish, Deodorant

In 1967, the days of the political desert in the Herut, the young Meridor was released from the army as a lieutenant in the Armored Corps. His father had died a year before. A little while later the Herut convention took place. Begin, whose heart went out to the orphan prince, came to the members of the standing committee that was forming the central committee and told them: "Everything that you will decide is acceptable to me. I have only one request. Bring in Meridor." And that is what happened. Begin always spoke about Meridor as a Polish gentleman speaks about his beloved. "Look at Dan," he said, "look how handsome he is. It's really a pleasure to look at him." And another time: "One day this young man is likely to become the chairman of the Herut Movement." In 1973 he made him a part of the movement's leadership.

After the 1977 upheaval and his failure to enter the Knesset, Meridor returned without bitterness to the Jerusalem law office. Begin took this harder than he did. In the preceding years he had been offered more than a few positions. The following is a list of offers and refusals: In the

early seventies Kleiner asked him to campaign for the leadership of the Students Association in Jerusalem. He refused. Begin wanted him to serve as the consul-general in South Africa. He refused. The Jerusalem branch suggested that he run for the city council. He refused. Aridor offered him the position of civil service commissioner. He refused. Later he was asked to be the spokesman for the Likud's campaign headquarters for the elections to the 10th Knesset. He refused. The reason in most cases -- I am not built for it, I don't have time, worries about a livelihood. What did happen was that he was asked to join the board of directors of the Bet Shemesh Engines Company and the plenum of the Broadcasting Authority, and he took upon himself, without any additional thoughts, the position of cabinet secretary.

Meridor is photogenic. No one can take this away from him. In contrast to Aryeh Na'or, who has no less family prestige, he captured the screen by storm. Na'or projected a cynical, somewhat bored, attitude about the cabinet secretary position, as when he grimaced when asked about Begin's health. "I did not study medicine," he said, imitating Begin's voice, and getting into trouble. This would never have happened to Meridor. After Na'or's scandalous departure, he flooded the screen with lukewarm and distant smiles. Communicative, bright like pure olive oil. The Herut waited a long time for such a charming young man. To a large extent he projects an atmosphere of Beilin, Novik, and Savir. Hair parted on the side, a James Bond briefcase, deodorant, a smooth tongue, emotionless. Polished English.

In 1984 he was added to the list of candidates, but as in 1977, he did not pass the threshold of the third septet despite the credit of being the cabinet secretary and a confidant. Even then he was not embraced by the branches. "I sent a four-line letter in which I did not even ask them to support me, only that I present my candidacy."

War: I Was, I Saw

On 13 June 1982, about a week after the outbreak of the Lebanon war, an end of the fighting was announced. Meridor, the then cabinet secretary, left a cabinet meeting and read 11 paragraphs to the reporters: ". . .2. In the 5 days of fighting the IDF accomplished its mission completely, with understanding, and with great resourcefulness. 3. Happy is the people which has such sons for fighters and commanders of its army and its soldiers. 4. The government pays tribute to the heroes and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the peace of the Galilee. May the Lord comfort the families who have lost dear ones among the rest of the mourners of Zion, and may the fighters for Jerusalem know no more sorrow. . .4. It can be assumed that the Galilee and its residents will no longer have anything to fear. . ."

[Question] Were you in favor of the war in all its stages?

[Answer] I don't want to go into the details of the war. I have not spoken about this anywhere. I was in the places where the decisions were made. I saw things from close up. I believe that the war was inevitable and that despite the very heavy price we paid. . ."

[Question] A justified price?

[Answer] It's difficult to ask questions about justice in wars. Was it justified that even one young man should be killed over Jerusalem? I don't know. The price was very heavy, far more than I had thought. But there is another side.

[Question] Too heavy in proportion to the objective of the war?

[Answer] Yes, too heavy. Very heavy. . . I don't know how to measure it.

[Question] Were you with Begin on the night he received the Kahan Commission's report? How did he feel?

[Answer] I don't want to talk about private meetings, but it's difficult to say that it was a happy evening. It was a difficult evening.

Party: Resentment of Sharon

It is customary to think that Shamir is sympathetic to the group of Knesset members consisting of 'Uzi Landau, Mikha'el Eitan, 'Ovadia 'Eli, Ronnie Milo, and Meridor. The common denominator for most of them: resentment of Sharon. Ronnie Milo is considered to be the adviser on the feelings in the branches. Meridor consults with him on political and legal matters. The General Security Service and rotation matters, for example. It is likely that the hostility to Sharon originates in Meridor's blaming him for Begin's fall. Sharon will not be forgiven for this even in his future positions. Limor Livnat, one of Sharon's people and one of Aridor's assistants, once said to him: "I represent a camp that does not exist for you." "You," he said to her, "I accept, but I regard you as Aridor's representative."

[Question] Does the possibility that Sharon will one day capture the leadership of the party frighten you?

[Answer] Drop it, drop it, what's the point?

Gaza No Less Than Nahariyyah

[Question] What is bad about an international conference?

[Answer] For us negotiations is a means, for a large segment of the Arabs it is an objective -- to bring about the destruction of the State of Israel.

[Question] To destroy?

[Answer] Yes, to annihilate. They cannot do this in war, so they say: Let's hold an international conference. What will happen in such a conference? Either we will surrender or, as I believe, we will stand up for our interests, and this will lead to a break-up. Why do we need this? If the conference breaks up, everyone will blame us.

[Question] Mubarak has spoken about the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination within the framework of a confederation with Jordan.

[Answer] I am strongly opposed to this. There is an agreement between the Egyptians and us that says that the Arabs who live in Judea and Samaria do not have the right to self-determination. Their future is to be decided by a joint Israeli-Jordanian-Egyptian-residents determination. This represented a major Israeli concession.

[Question] On the other hand, you favored the imposition of Israeli law on Judea and Samaria.

[Answer] Yes, because I believe that Israel should aspire to this.

[Question] What about the 1.5 million Arabs?

[Answer] In the historic struggle, a part of the Arab people will not have self-determination. Otherwise, there will be no Jewish state.

[Question] They consider themselves to be a distinct national entity. What are you going to do, have military rule to the end of time?

[Answer] There are no partial solutions. We can argue about borders until tomorrow morning.

[Question] What are Israel's borders?

[Answer] Today I don't see any line that is west of the Jordan with which we could maintain our strength.

[Question] The Gaza Strip?

[Answer] It is no less Eretz Israel than Nahariyyah. This is written in all the history books.

[Question] One-half million Arabs live there.

[Answer] In the Galilee there are more Arabs, and I don't suggest that because of this we should give it up.

[Question] What is the difference between you and Geula Cohen?

[Answer] She doesn't believe in the political process based on Camp David. I am prepared to pay a very heavy price and go to a Camp David-type agreement.

[Question] How did you feel when you found out that Kahane was elected to the Knesset?

[Answer] Very bad. I was ashamed that 25,000 people could support such views and actions.

Tactics: Milo Complains

In the early seventies, at the time of the revolt of the Herut students of Tel Aviv University, Kleiner, Reiser, and Milo tried to enlist him for the struggle for the leadership of the Association in Jerusalem. Meridor refused. In Jerusalem, in the early seventies, the Alignment controlled the Association. Meridor was a young member of the central committee, a favorite of Begin. Safe. A member of the Jerusalem branch of Herut. Selected every time as an agreed upon candidate. He avoided controversies. He would appear at memorials or boring conferences, sit in the first row, polished, all the patience of the world on his face. "He is surely thinking about girls," said someone in this regard.

Meridor did not go to demonstrate against Kissinger together with Kleiner and Milo. He also did not go to Sabastiyah or the Golan. Milo would speak about intra-party activity, and in the back rooms with the young people, he would make the following derogatory remark: "What's the matter with Dan that he doesn't do anything. He has these pretensions, and we here are doing all the dirty work."

[Question] There is a feeling that you have been thrust by the old leadership into a good place in the middle, and the moment it leaves this world there will be no one to protect you.

[Answer] This is absolutely not true. I was not thrust by anyone. In the formal sense, I have been a member of the movement for 20 years. If this is thrusting, then it is thrusting from a considerable height. I know that several of my friends, in quotation marks, have used names like "princes." It is absurd. The fact is that in 1977 I was not elected.

[Question] Milo, for example, is doing the dirty work that you never did.

[Answer] Why is he doing dirty work? Milo is a member of the Herut Movement as I am. Everyone did what he did for the movement.

In the last Herut convention Meridor got into trouble. With Levi's support and on the basis of his well-developed reputation for credibility, he received the authority of the Personalities Committee. Most places on the committee went to Shamir's people. Matters developed to the point that Meridor said: "I will be fair, I promise you." Milo, who immediately understood the implication, said approximately this: "If you want to be fair, be so as much as you want, but we will leave you in the minority." Meridor commented to Levi's people: "I will do my best. It is clear that it cannot be completely balanced." He made it clear that if there were serious irregularities, he would not join in and would resign. Eventually a list came out -- 192 "respected" personalities consisting of secretaries, relatives, public information clerks. On the list there were 160 of Shamir's people. It was a list in Ronnie Milo's style that the Elections Committee approved. Immediately after the approval there was an additional list of 77 people for whom, as it were, there was no place on the list of the 192. This list included Shamir, Kaufman, Deqel, Sharon, Milo, and Katzav.

Without them it would have been impossible to open the convention. The Sharon-Levi people appealed to the court. The court, in an unprecedented action, decided that the Sharon-Levi people would add 76 delegates, according to their opinion, as a counterweight to the 77 of the committee. Meridor was accused of supporting the closing of such a list. If he is such an ethical person, how is it that he did not resign? David Levi on Meridor: "He stood like an embarrassed, downcast young man."

[Question] Didn't you have moments of despair at the convention?

[Answer] There were moments when I felt very bad at the convention.

[Question] In the party?

[Answer] When I compare the Herut Movement to the other parties, I still feel that we stand much ahead of the others. We represent the cross section of the people of Israel.

[Question] There is a complaint by those voters of whom you spoke that they are not represented, in accordance with their strength, in the leadership, and therefore there was also the split at the convention.

[Answer] I do not want to attack even one person in regard to the convention. I have clear opinions, I saw things up close. I believe that we must heal. I do not want to provide a good headline.

[Question] Is politics at all for you?

[Answer] It depends how you want to see politics regarded. I will not make agreements of the "you support me and I'll support you" kind. I don't like it, and I can't do it. I can return home. I have no problem working as a lawyer.

[Question] But how will you overcome the matter of the branches in the future? You are not exactly a man of the branches to make friends with.

[Answer] If the intention is to come to a branch so that this one and that one will support you, it's not for me. However, if "a man of the branches to make friends with" means to appear in all the branches of the movement, then I think there isn't a week that I am not speaking in some branch.

[Question] How are you in the public squares?

[Answer] You would be surprised. On more than one occasion, I have had the opportunity to appear at large meetings, and many people come to hear me. Perhaps more have come for others than for me. My knees did not shake in Bat Yam and Holon.

[Question] You once said that the fairies of your childhood were born in Europe. Wasn't it warm for them in the Middle East?

[Answer] Actually, at that time I spoke about myself as I do not customarily do. I told about a part of the problem of the fabric of cultures. We come from very varied cultures. The legends that we learned about the Brothers Grimm and Snow White speak about virgin forests of snow, and in Israel there are no virgin forests and snow.

[Question] The music of cassettes, it must be assumed, are more popular than the Brothers Grimm.

[Answer] I also have cassettes in my car. I listen to them.

[Question] "Linda, Linda? "

[Answer] No. Mozart, Beethoven, Mahler, and Schubert.

[Question] The party that you represent gives an impression more of "Linda, Linda" than Schubert.

[Answer] I want to tell you that in sum the Herut Movement is not a party with one cultural coloration. It is true that in Qatamon in Jerusalem it received 50 and 60 percent, but also in Rehavya it received 20 percent. One doesn't see this in other parties.

[Question] Did you as a Rehavya child have more contact with the children of Musrara or Rehavya?

[Answer] I remember myself as a child going to the YMCA field and watching the Betar games.

[Question] Do you also go today?

[Answer] Less frequently. But then on Sabbath morning, I would go to the synagogue and after noon, once every 2 weeks, to the YMCA. I did not see only Rehavya. In the army did I see only, Rehavya? No. There were no stereotypes. I was unusual in Rehavya. Each person was different. There was soccer. . .

[Question] And private piano lessons?

[Answer] There was a grandmother who taught us piano. She was not a regular private teacher.

[Question] What is next? Where do you want to go?

[Answer] If the Herut Movement contracted a certain sickness at the last convention, it was ambitionosis. The emphasis that people place on their personal hopes is strange to me. The word ambition is strange to me. I want to serve.

ISRAEL

PAPER DESCRIBES RELIGIOUS 'GNAWING PROCESS' WITHIN IDF

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Sep 86 p 9

[Article by Re'uven Pedatzur: "IDF Puts On A Yarmulke"]

[Text] Everything is being done within the framework of orders of the General Staff. No one is violating the law, and apparently what is involved are local "incidents" and not IDF policy. However, too many such "incidents" have occurred in the recent past. No less serious has been the patient attitude and the smiling reaction, accompanied by a kind of guileful wink, of the senior command. It seems that instead of evaluating them on their own merit, the IDF has begun, not to its benefit, with guidance from above, to act in accordance with the rules of the game of the political establishment.

According to the reactions of the high command, as they are expressed from time to time in the responses and comments of the IDF Spokesman, it seems that it is prohibited to anger, Heaven forbid, the emissaries of the Holy One, blessed be He, who are blossoming in the camps and bases.

Although IDF soldiers are still not required to put on a yarmulke and to say grace after meals, the gnawing process is at its height. Instructions and orders which the conscripted religious personnel did not dare dream about in their rosiest dreams have become a sad reality.

It is perhaps difficult to believe, but things have reached the point where the departure of a military unit for operational training at a designated time was dependent on the completion of prayer and the bestowing of a blessing by the Lubavitcher Rebbe on his flock in the Nahal camp. The prayer that took a long time ended, and a company of Nahal soldiers was forced to wait about one-half hour until the Lubavitcher's emissary deemed it proper to release the rebbe's soldiers for secular matters. The IDF's official reaction to the scandal -- "although there was some kind of dispute with the Rabbi, the company left for training on time." They apparently did not conduct a serious investigation despite the fact that the claims of the soldiers and the officers who were present there contradict the IDF spokesman's version. Moreover, the Nahal commander tried to stress that the Lubavitcher Rebbe's emissary, Rabbi Moshe 'Edre'i, the man who ignored the Nahal officer who asked him to release the soldiers for training,

is a "precious person" who does wonders for the Nahal. The last action now left for Brig Gen Gilbo'a, the Nahal commander, is a trip to New York to the rebbe's house to receive a blessing. In light of the forgiving attitude to Rabbi 'Edre'i's actions, there is no doubt that Brig Gen Gilbo'a would be very warmly received by the rebbe.

Tip of the Iceberg

The Nahal commander apparently has his own good reasons for his special attitude to the New York rebbe, but it seems that he has more than a few partners within the IDF's top echelon. Otherwise, it is difficult to understand the disregarding and the deafening silence accompanying the series of incidents that have occurred in the recent past, incidents that have seriously damaged the delicate status quo in the IDF between the religious and the secularists.

No less than 15 incidents that have recently occurred in the IDF came to mind when I reviewed what has been published in the press or what I became aware of, and this is only the tip of the iceberg. There have undoubtedly been many additional incidents that have not been publicized. Beyond the importance that must be attached to each incident, the accrual is important. Just like in the civilian political establishment, the religious personnel in the IDF are also using the gnawing method, step after step. Unless they are blocked, we are likely to find ourselves with an army that here and there is subject to the control of the priests of religion.

This July a "Jewish Information Page" signed by Major Shmu'el Darlikh, the chaplain of the Judea and Samaria Region, was distributed to the soldiers who were serving in Judea and Samaria. This is what the rabbi writes to his troops: "The people of Israel on this Sabbath are commanded by the Torah to read the section of 'Remember what Amalek did unto thee.'

"This commandment is not for reading alone but for implementation. . . A fundamental mission of a king in Israel is to cut off Amalek. . . A relentless, bloody, uncompromising, and merciless war must be fought against him until he is eradicated. . . We are obligated to regard critically the developed sense of ethics that we have within us. Pity does not always bring good to the world. . . and therefore, we must weigh this in accordance with the Torah criteria, from our sources. . . We are commanded to erase his name and everything that has even the slightest connection with the Amalekite people. . . Remember, do not forget."

Who Are the Amalekites?

This time the judge advocate general also adopted the rules of the game. After examining Rabbi Darlikh's "information page" that contains many more such gems, the judge advocate general decided that "in the page issued by Rabbi Darlikh, there is no explicit mention of the Arab community." Therefore, he decided, there is no basis for taking disciplinary action against the rabbi. While it is true that Rabbi Darlikh is not writing about the Arabs, the judge advocate general must be extremely naive, or more probably,

feigning innocence, in order to believe that the rabbi was referring to the Swiss people when he wrote about Amalek. I wondered what precisely, according to the judge advocate general, Brig Gen Ben-Tzion Pirhi, Darlikh was referring to when he stated that the commandment involved in cutting off Amalek is not only for reading "but is a commandment for implementation."

At one of the air force bases the base rabbi decided to separate the men and women at the base swimming pool. He has set swimming hours for men that do not, Heaven forbid, coincide with the hours in which the women swim.

At the same base the same rabbi issued an order that a vehicle can only be driven on the Sabbath for operational purposes. As such, personnel serving as mechanics in an underground facility, located about 4 km from the mess hall, are forced to walk 8 km in the summer heat to the mess hall and back in order to eat. Many of them forego the meal. On one Sabbath when a truck was sent to the mess hall in order to take food to those mechanics, the diligent religious sergeant discovered this. He climbed on the truck and threw off all the food. No important man like the religious sergeant would permit the circumvention of the orders of his rabbi. The personnel were left hungry.

Personnel who had Sabbath leave were held at the base after someone calculated that if they left the base at the time they intended to, they would likely, Heaven forbid, desecrate the Sabbath on the trip home.

Reservists at one of the posts in the Jordan Valley were not permitted to call home on the Sabbath because of the desecration of the Sabbath.

Educational Tour

All of the officers and the regular service personnel of the Gadna received an order to be present at a "Judaism assembly" that was to be held in Kfar Habad. This was against the will of many of them and contrary to the guidance that a soldier is not required to go to a religious institution against his will. The IDF spokesman's reaction was interesting. "The Gadna officers," said the spokesman, "will conduct an educational tour in the educational institutions of Kfar Habad to see how they handle youth who require special care." It was indeed an appropriate description for such an educational tour -- "Judaism assembly."

One of the chaplains did a great thing when he recently burned the New Testament at one of the bases. It must be assumed that that rabbi was trying to demonstrate to the peoples of the world that it is not only in Berlin that they know how to put books on the pyre.

The Habad [reference to the Lubavitch movement] people also receive preferential treatment in the IDF, and virtually all the gates are opened for their "Operations Tank." Students at the officers school are taken after refreshments to visits in religious family homes "so that they will become wise and intellectual." The female soldiers of the Nahal receive during basic training lectures from rabbis' wives on "morality and family purity." Air force

headquarters has cooperated with Makhon Me'ir, an action that has resulted in a not insignificant number of pilots becoming religiously observant. This, as was stated, is only a partial and limited list.

Unfortunately, no one among the officers of the high command is deploring this phenomenon. On the contrary, at times one has the impression that the senior command is doing everything in order not to disrupt the dangerous process of the attempt to impose religion everywhere possible in the armed forces.

5830

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ISRAEL

IDF MAY LENGTHEN RESERVE SERVICE

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Oct 86 p 2

[Article by Tzvi Alush: "Major General Shomron: The IDF Will Lengthen Reserve Duty Next Year"]

[Text] The deputy chief of staff says on the eve of his retirement: "Due to budget cuts, about 5000 military regulars had to be laid off last year."

"Despite the risks involved, the IDF must, in the near future, carry out substantial structural changes with respect to land forces. The goal is to improve quality at the expense of quantity while keeping a close watch over the main security objective which is victory on the battlefield." So said the deputy chief of staff and head of operations, Major General Dan Shomron, yesterday at a military press conference in connection with his retirement.

Major General Shomron stressed that there is no getting away from a continued reduction in the size and scope of the military and the shifting of resources in the course of carrying out changes in the structure of the IDF. According to him, the census has already been reduced and 5000 regulars have been released, mostly men in service and command units.

Forces Training

On the other hand, Shomron announced that in 1987 the IDF will increase the number of days of reserve duty spent on training, whether on land or in the air. This follows last year when too great a cut was made in the length of reserve duty.

"The IDF can afford to take the risks involved in such a structural change because, at the present time, the only military threat to Israel comes from Syria," Shomron pointed out, but he added that "despite its poor economic condition, Syria is at the peak of a process of rapid growth in its military strength. Likewise, there is no flinching from the determination in Syria to achieve a border situation of maximum military friction with Israel."

The Arabs are Arming Themselves

The outgoing deputy chief of staff also pointed out that the potential military threat to Israel from other nations is growing. "Iraq has quadrupled the number of its divisions since the start of the war with Iran. Jordan is arming itself with modern combat means and will soon be acquiring modern combat planes. The Egyptian army has also been increasing the pace of its rearming with improved combat means. Despite the fact that there is no immediate danger envisioned from these countries, it is worthwhile keeping track of the development of this military potential, especially in light of the possibility of rapid political turnarounds in these countries."

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ISRAEL

REOPENING OF READING POWER STATION CAUSES STIR

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Sep 86 p 56

[Article by Hayim Handwerker: "Danger to the Green Strips"]

[Text] Such a thing has never occurred. Minister of Interior Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, at a meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs this week, became the lone fighter for the quality of the environment. The other ministers like Moshe Shahal, Amnon Rubinstein, and Gide'on Patt, who should naturally have been more sensitive to the needs of the residents of Tel Aviv, represented the interests of the Electric Company -- to re-activate the Reading 3 power station next to the Museum Ha'aretz in Tel Aviv.

Minister of Communications Amnon Rubinstein explained his position for the activation of the station by the fact that it will be operated during a true emergency or at a time of a complete power outage in the country. In any case, Rubinstein promises that he will insist that the requirement made at the ministerial committee meeting that the station not begin working until a survey of the effect on the environment by an independent party be included in the decision of the committee and that it pass a test of its operation. The chairman of the Knesset Energy Committee, MK Uri'el Lin, the Ministry of Interior, and the chairman of the Environmental Quality Branch in Tel Aviv, Prof Efrayim Turgovnik, in contrast, claim that the definition of the term "emergency" is deceiving. This does not mean operating in a time of war. Instead, an electrical emergency means when there is an excessive load on the electric grid. Therefore, the station will be operating frequently -- which will mean, according to Lin, an ecological holocaust.

It seems that Minister of Energy Moshe Shahal managed to pass too quickly the decision on setting up the two turbines in north Tel Aviv. Only today, after the decision was already made, the minister of energy and the director-general of the Electric Company, Yitzhaq Hofi, will meet with Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat in order to discuss the issue and to hear the position of a representative of the residents of Tel Aviv. The Tel Aviv municipality itself has been dealing with this matter in recent months at the bureaucratic level, and it has not had the chance to initiate a public campaign. Public action began in the municipality only after the decision was made, and at this stage it is not clear how serious it will be.

The Background: Concern about Bombings

Moreover, the Ministry of Energy forgot about the establishment of a committee of experts headed by Dr Shmu'el Brenner, the director of the Environmental Health Research Institute, which has been working for several months now and which includes senior members of various ministries including the Ministry of Energy itself (the deputy director-general for electrical matters, Ram Haviv). This committee is to give its opinion regarding damages to public health because of the operation of the turbines. It will have the authority of a function of the Ministry of Health as the overseer of the Reading power station for health matters. The only party, therefore, that had its finger on the pulse was the Ministry of Interior. The minister of interior came to the ministerial committee meeting, warned against making the decision, and suggested that the decision be coordinated through the customary planning and construction processes.

Although this is beauracracy, it is the existing legal procedure in the State of Israel that permits the public to come and express its opposition and a review by committees of experts and governmental technical authorities like environmental quality personnel in the Ministry of Interior and others. All of this is to assure that when the facility is activated, the damage to the public will be minimal. Minister Peretz also came better prepared than all of them, and he had four alternatives to activating the station in the Tel Aviv region and in places that presented much fewer problems, but his suggestions were rejected.

The Reading 3 station, located next to the Exhibition Gardens, was built as a result of the Egyptian-Czech arms deal at the end of the fifties. The then prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, was worried that Tel Aviv would be bombed and the electric grid damaged. Therefore, he tried to establish a backup for the grid. This station is under ground. It should be noted that in all the publicity concerning the matter the reporters had been requested by the Ministry of Energy not to mention that it is an underground station. The man who reported this to the public was none other than Minister of Energy Moshe Shahal at his appearance in a direct broadcast on the television program "New Evening" on Wednesday.

Reading 3 was shut down with the construction of Reading 4. It was actually one of the conditions for the activation of the new power station. Reading 4 was built in the mid-sixties when there was a severe slowdown, the state was about to hold elections, and it was considered worthwhile to find employment for many workers. The planning and construction authorities, including the then **attorney general**, were opposed to the plan. The opposition stemmed from reasons of environmental damage. However, the then government, in its desire to quickly establish the project, enacted the Reading 4 law permitting it to build a power station without the planning and construction procedures established in the law. It subsequently became evident that Reading 4 had indeed become a bother, and on the government's agenda is a proposal to repeal the Reading law.

While this proposal has been on the agenda, the minister of energy decided to use the law as long as it was in effect in order to approve the reactivation of Reading 3. Minister Shahal promised at the ministerial committee meeting that the activation of the two turbines would not cause damage to the public. The turbines will be operated with gas for the smallest number of hours a year in an emergency only and as a backup. They do not cause air pollution, and anyone who claims otherwise is deceiving the public.

Minister Shahal bases his comments on, among other things, a study of the effect on the environment that was made by the Electric Company which is an interested party.

However, according to another document that was first published here, a different picture emerges. The document that was produced by Ya'akov Sheinberg, the director of the Environmental Quality Department of the Dan Municipalities Association, at the request of Prof Efrayim Turgovnik, the chief of the Environmental Quality Branch of Tel Aviv, states that "the Electric Company wants to use its right to build a facility without any regard for the municipal authority in order to prevent citizen opposition that would naturally be expected because they are the only ones who should decide what is to be done in the area.

"I do not have precise data, but after the activation of the Hadera station, there is no need for more electricity. Reading 4 is operating today with an output of about 30 percent so there is no need for emergency output, and this emergency has not been defined at all.

Dangers of Diesel Fuel

"The station will have the most serious effects and dangers because it will be operated with diesel fuel by means of the turbines. Among other things, we are talking about the noise effects"(according to the Tel Aviv municipal engineer, Shamai Asif, the residents in the vicinity will suffer from noise that is the equivalent of two Boeing jet engines).

Sheinberg also points out that there are effects and hazards stemming from the storage and transportation of the diesel fuel. He emphasizes that in a strip of 2 km in a densely populated area are the national gas facilities and the Military Industries, and this entails a danger.

Sheinberg warns that odors will be emitted from the washing and maintenance of the diesel fuel transportation and storage systems. Already today the residents in north Tel Aviv suffer from strong odors from a very large concentration of gasoline tanks in the vicinity.

He emphasizes that the station will emit heat with an effect on the entire vicinity of 400 degrees Celsius (Prof Turgovnik says that in a study that he had made there was a concern that the winds would carry these heat waves to the nearby residential areas).

According to Sheinberg, the activation of the station will needlessly increase the pollution levels in Tel Aviv. According to his calculations, every hour of operation is equivalent to an increase of 2,000 buses per hour in the area. At the same time, it must be remembered that at the peak hours in Tel Aviv and vicinity there are about 1,300 buses per hour moving throughout the entire city. The Ministry of Energy's proposal must be weighed against an enormous concentration of buses in one place.

The report also warns that the operation of the station will cause serious restrictions and a virtual freeze in the development of the green strips of Tel Aviv and vicinity like the Park of the Congresses.

The conclusion of the director of the Environmental Quality Department is that it is undoubtedly clear that Tel Aviv as a city must reject the proposal outright.

What Will the Citizen Say?

At a meeting of the Ministerial Committee Shahal expressed his ministry's official position in stating that he accepts upon himself any decision of a professional body in the Technion that will study the matter in all its aspects in order that the location of Reading 3 not be damaging. The use of the Technion, however, is strange. According to the Reading law, the party responsible for effects on the health of the residents is the health inspector. The Technion cannot replace the health inspector provided by the law. The same applies to effects on the environment. According to the law, the party authorized to give an opinion is the Environmental Quality Unit in the Ministry of Interior. In Shahal's use of the Technion, he is in actuality expressing a lack of confidence in the professional governmental units provided in the law.

Moreover, the Ministry of Energy bases its decision to activate the Reading law on its concern about a delay in the approval of the station in the various planning and construction authorities. Is this how Shahal, a jurist by profession, is trying to hint to the residents of Israel that he lacks confidence in the planning and construction authorities? And what will the citizen who needs them for the construction of his house or a minor physical change in his house say about that?

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ISRAEL

MA'ALE ADUMMIM, LARGEST WEST BANK SETTLEMENT DESCRIBED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Oct 86 (Supplement-"Weekend") pp 14-15, 17

[Article by Amos Levav: 'Ma'ale Adummmim']

[Text] Fifteen thousand attractive and concerned people have in Ma'ale Adummmim, 20 minutes from Jerusalem. There were once hopes of establishing a large prosperous town here. Perhaps, for that reason, Teddy Kollek did not like having it breathing down his neck. Now it is quite clear. "The place will remain small and charming," as they say in the ministry of housing. They will continue to make their major purchases in nearby al-'Azariyah.

In Ma'ale Adummmim, the spirit flourishes. It is a beautiful town, green, with lovely people who care but whose growth came suddenly to a screeching halt. And you hear the squealing of those brakes wherever you turn. Ma'ale Adummmim is the most populated settlement in Judea and Samaria. It is no wonder that many eyes are turned towards it. For what happens there, 1 and 1/2 hours from Kfar-Sava and 14 minutes from Jerusalem, will have repercussions on the future of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories as a whole.

The origin of the name Ma'ale Adummmim, so you are told on the reverse side of the map of this beautifully planned settlement, comes from the red color of the surrounding hills. But one is also told hair-raising stories of robbers who would ambush and murder people who came by. The blood that was spilled here at the top of the main road gave it its blood-red Arabic name. Nowadays, other dangers lie in wait for the settlement, and most of them come from the Ministry of Housing. All construction has stopped in this lovely settlement which is no longer investing anything in its maintenance. Ma'ale Adummmim is now like a swift runner whose racing is suddenly restrained. Such restraint is likely to cause a fall and perhaps also a painful disillusionment.

Many, therefore, are watching this settlement of 15,000 people. For if the mighty cedars have succumbed to the flames, how will the weaker settlements escape unscathed--those already established or those still waiting in the wings, perhaps in hopes of the rotation? A rare opportunity was presented to the initiators. They took stark, barren hills and built a

city on them out of nothing. And now streets are being planned with modern sign-posts, areas closed to traffic where children can play undisturbed, an active mitnas, a beautiful swimming pool, schools, and a business district which is not bad though it cannot compete with the stores of the neighboring Arab village, al-'Azariyah. And there are issues that are only being talked about everywhere else in Israel. In Ma'ale Adummim, they are doing something about them. An example is the coexistence of religious and secular people, or integration, which is simply not a problem here. There are also good neighborly relations with the Arabs and a fast road to Jerusalem which we will travel when we return to the city.

Late in the evening, a pleasant dry desert wind is blowing, and in the backyard of the home of Mikha Bar-On, director of the Archeological Institute at the Hebrew University, a lovely group of concerned people are meeting. They are partaking of the abundant refreshments, laughing, speaking with pleasure about their town, but they are also very worried. They represent a broad spectrum of political beliefs, but they are united in their concern for the future of Ma'ale Adummim.

Those sitting there include: Shaul Levi, a retired member of EGED; Shmuel Greenbaum, an auditor in the ministry of education; Eli Raz, owner of a nursery and one of the founding fathers who lives on the Adummim Plain, which is attached to Ma'ale Adummim; Kushi Maliah ("Yes, Kushi, that is what is written on the birth certificate") a building contractor who works here when there is work; Amir Hashin, advisor to Teddy Kollek on matters concerning East Jerusalem, who is waiting for his wife Mina. She is at the dentist's office. At 9:30 pm she arrives, and it is obvious that she was a pretty woman before the treatment. She hands her husband a list of medicines which he must buy immediately, and then I start to worry too.

"Amir, you have to travel to Jerusalem now? Where will you find a pharmacy open at this hour?" They all laugh. "In al-'Azariyah there are three pharmacies and dozens of grocery stores open till 11 pm," Amir explains, and he leaves.

The others volunteer the information that this Arab village is the business district for Ma'ale Adummim. Even if they arrived and found a store closed, there would be no problem. They would shout Jamil, Jamil, if that happened to be the name of the person living above or behind the shop, and he would open up. It would not matter what time it was. And he also sells on credit.

"For the time being, Ma'ale Adummim is helping with the growth and development of al-'Azariyah," laughs Eli Raz. Mikha Bar-On praises his town. "The town is beautifully designed, the climate is pleasant, the population young and concerned. The industrial sector has a good foundation and the education system is well developed. We even have a large mosaic from the Byzantine period."

Mikha, as you recall, is the director of the Archaeological Institute. If he sounds like a broadcaster, his friends add even more. Kushi: "I came

down to Adummim Plain with my wife when people were still living in (huts). I told her I would not live in a military camp. She convinced me to come here, and now I am satisfied." Shaul: "When I was a driver for EGED, I came here on the bus several times. I was favorably impressed with the people I saw. And when the settlement was established, I came to live here, especially because of the quality of the people and the place." Shmuel: "There is nothing to compare with the development of this settlement." Eli: "Jerusalem radiates light, and people of stature have come here. It is really fun to talk with them."

Me: "So if everything is so good, what is do bad?" The worried ones: "We are anxious. But it is not an anxiety that one could bring to a court of law. We are simply reading the map. We are also afraid that such a municipality is too big for its administration." The administration was selected 4 months ago. Amos Tartman was elected head of the council, a Herut man. Before that, he administered by appointment rather than by election. If we are already looking at the past, let us look a bit farther back to 1974 when the nucleus of Ma'ale Adummim pressured the government which agreed to establish an industrial center and a "residential camp for the workers." Later, according to the familiar script, there was instant settlement. The army came and so did communications.

Suddenly, there was a synagogue (despite the fact that this was not a religious nucleus of Gush Emunim but a mixed nucleus). All this happened on Independence Day in 1975. The families came on weekends and prayed, and, on the 7th day of Hanuka, 23 families settled on "founders' hill." After 2 and 1/2 years, true to the well-known script, the government determined that a town would be established in Ma'ale Adummim. Teddy Kollek complained some, but it didn't do any good, and now he actually helps a bit.

After 5 years, in 1982, they began to populate the new area in a modern and attractive way, the result of Tommy Leitersdorf. The appointed management was put together in no time. Yisrael Goldstein, council secretary, says that Ma'ale Adummim accomplished in 3 years what 'Iit, Nazareth, and Karmiel did not do in 15 years.

The plan calls for 50,000 residents within 10 years. Today it is clear that this plan is pie in the sky. Yaron Ran, deputy minister of energy and a member of the town council, goes so far as to call Ma'ale Adummim a "town with a question mark," and he explains. "We have arrived at a critical point. We have residential areas, but we have no public buildings, no organized health care, and no local employment." He also warns: "If we do not continue in our attempts to get 50,000 residents, I am afraid that the government will decide that we do not merit independent existence and will turn us into another suburb of Jerusalem."

And does the prophet not cry out, "sorry, Teddy, for all the years." When he hired Amir Hashin, the two of them sat down together in a hotel in New York. Amir was an emissary in the United States at that time, and Teddy Kollek was visiting. "He was not pleased with the idea of my living

in Ma'ale Adummim," Amir recalls. "He told me, 'all your life you have lived in Jerusalem, you have used its services, and even now still use its services, but you are not living there.' It upsets Teddy that workers in a town, due to circumstances and because of government policy, are forced to live outside Jerusalem. But I was unable to afford a standard of living, with a house and a little garden, in Jerusalem. And Teddy understood that."

The pills which he brought from al-'Azariyan helped relieve Mina's pain, but they did not relieve her concerns on the subject of education. "There is no high school," she said. "So I will have to enroll my son, a fifth grade student, in a middle school in Jerusalem so that he can continue in the same school." Amir worries because his 18 year old daughter goes out at night to Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv with her boyfriend because there is no night life for young people in Ma'ale Adummim. In the interests of coexistence with the religious group, the secularists did without a night-club for the youth on Friday nights, and Mina is worried about what bored young people are likely to do. Perhaps they might even get into a scuffle with the law. But with which law? Israeli? Jordanian? Military? On this point, those worried turn out also to be confused.

Amos Tartman, head of the council, says that this is a problem that has not been solved. "The problem is with the Camp David agreements," he says. "It is not that I think they are bad, but they have created confusion with regard to law and justice because they prohibited the enforcement of Israeli law." For example, it is impossible to collect a television bond from the residents of Ma'ale Adummim which is actually good. After all, the reception is excellent for Jordan and they hardly get Israel at all, so that is good. But it is impossible to enforce Israeli construction laws, so they have added "Israeli criteria on top of Jordanian law." They do not have to get strict about safety, and there are no housing committees because they have no teeth, and because the joint housing law does not apply there.

An Israeli municipal court will soon be established, as in Qiryat Arba, but if a resident refuses to abide by the law, he will be judged in a military court. In short, it is chaos. This whole business is also not democratic, since the military commander can, with the stroke of a pen, legislate since he is in charge in the area. For example, he has already added more than 30 regulations to the articles of the local councils. But it is not the law which worries Amos Tartman. It is the halt in construction. "This worries me a lot," he says, and he joins the list of worried people. He is afraid that the young families in his town, and there are many of these, will grow and want to exchange their small homes for larger ones. Since this is impossible right now because no construction is going on, perhaps they will leave and go to Jerusalem.

In the same breath, he also reacts to the accusations of council members concerning the concentration of power in the hands of the secretary, Yisrael Goldstein, and says that he has complete faith in him, and that as long as he carries out his job flawlessly, he will continue to have

substantial powers. The man with the powers, Yisrael Goldstein, responds to Mina's concerns about education. "Schools in Jerusalem are low on students, and the ministry of education is opposed to establishing a high school in Ma'ale Adummim because there are not enough students," he explains. The assistant head of the council, Eli Cohen, shares his dream with us. "I would like to see a bigger town whose youth, when they are in the army, do not say, 'I live near Jerusalem.'"

Later, in the Ministry of Housing, they will cool down the burning vision of Eli Cohen a bit. But we will get to the chapter on reactions shortly. Meanwhile, we ask Amos Tartman how it happened that on the Adummim Plain, some of the founding fathers turned into separatist sons. How did it happen that seven of the original families remained alone on a barren hill 5 kilometers east of Ma'ale Adummim? "They lived there like on a kibbutz, on an ideological basis," Amos Tartman explains. "When the town was established, whoever did not want to come here went to the nearby Adummim village. We wanted to establish an educational center on Adummim Plain. We wanted to help them move to Adummim Plain. We thought about turning that spot into a tourist attraction. But they do not want to come here and prefer to live there alone. We want to have them here, and, meanwhile we provide all the services for them."

On the edge of town, on a high hill, one sees an isolated neighborhood. "Mitzpe Nevo," the religious suburb, far away and cut off from the town. This is the secret of the coexistence between the religious and secular groups in Ma'ale Adummim. David Nae, one of the initiators of the suburb, an energetic, fire and brimstone person, says, "This is a Zionist religious neighborhood" with the emphasis on Zionist. He was able to bring 50 families here from abroad, built them beautiful homes overlooking the desert, added to those another 60 religious Israeli families, initiated the establishment of a regular yeshiva, and hung up a sign at the entrance asking drivers not to offend the feelings of the residents by driving on the Sabbath.

"It is the creation of a kind of ghetto," he admits reluctantly, "but an orthodox Jew from the United States who is not looking for Mea Shearim, would definitely prefer this neighborhood." Looking through the rear-view mirror on the way back to Jerusalem, one could see the desert landscape and the wonderful panorama of a modern little town wanting to grow.

There is no news for the lovely concerned people of Ma'ale Adummim at the Ministry of Housing which established this wonderful project. Rena Zamir, assistant director of the district of Jerusalem, says that there are now 480 unsold apartments at Pisgat Zeev. In Jerusalem there are 600 unsold apartments in the hands of private contractors. "When there are so many apartments for sale in Jerusalem, the national economy cannot build new housing," she says. She does not believe that this threatens the settlement. It will simply remain small and charming. "We all want to be big," she says. "Ma'ale Adummim is no different from the state in this respect. And this, apparently, is the message that Ma'ale Adummim, the largest

settlement in Judea and Samaria, will broadcast in the foreseeable future to the smaller settlements which look hopefully towards it: We will remain small for quite some time. To put it simply, the Jews are not coming. And building houses which are likely to remain empty will not solve the main problem: the Jews are not coming.

9348/9190

CSO: 4423/5

ISRAEL

RAFAEL OPENS ADVANCED SOLID STATE TECHNOLOGY PLANT

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Oct 86 (Weekly Supplement) p 29

[Article: "RAFAEL has Opened a Special Installation for Solid State Technology"]

[Text] A unique installation for solid state technology has been opened quietly and without fanfare by the Authority for the Development of Combat Means (RAFAEL). The regular plant is situated in a modern expansive building in "Leshem Institute" in the Shegev sector in the Galilee. The solid state technology plant puts Israel in the same league with countries which are able to produce the unique and sophisticated devices required by advanced weapons systems such as missiles, night vision equipment, electro-optical, and electronic components.

This special plant was built by the cream of Israeli experts in consultation with American companies which specialize in this technology. It includes a sizeable number of development laboratories and rooms where the level of cleanliness is very high. In these rooms, a clean and controlled atmosphere is attainable. The number of dust particles allowed in the air is only a few per liter. Temperature is kept within a half degree celsius and the relative humidity within 5 percent. This controlled atmosphere is required because of the sensitivity of the materials to environmental conditions and because of the miniscule dimensions (thousandths of millimeters) of the apparatus since there is the danger that a single dust particle could destroy them.

RAFAEL, as the authority in charge of development and supply of combat means in the forefront of knowledge and operational needs for the IDF, concentrates enormous efforts and resources for the development of the technological foundation. This stems from the belief, recognition, and understanding that only with this foundation and with superior manpower can the IDF acquire the ability to manifest operational superiority by means of technological advances in the realm of weapons systems.

For years, RAFAEL has been contributing to the settlement, industrialization, and economic consumption in the Galilee. About two years ago, "Leshem Institute" was started in the Shegev sector in the Galilee which gives Rafael room for expansion for many years to come. This institute represents an encouraging and stimulating factor for the establishment

of industry with extensive expertise, for the renewal of growth in the Galilee, and for the advancement of extensive basic works in the entire area.

The new plant for solid state technology is one of its kind in Israel. There are few of its kind in the entire world. There is no doubt that its inauguration, along with its initial operation and the sparks produced by the preparations for it, represent an important landmark in the realm of science and technology in Israel.

RAFAEL, in cooperation with elements in the defense ministry which routinely deal with unearthing technological options for weapons systems and providing the best solutions, are already looking ahead to the 21st century. The new plant represents one of the foundation stones needed in order to establish a powerful structure for the new technologies required for the development of the combat means which will be essential in the future.

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ISRAEL

BRIEFS

PURCHASING CHINESE COAL—The government of Peking is willing and interested in negotiating with Israel about the sale of Chinese coal to Israel. So it appeared from a conversation which took place yesterday between Energy Minister Moshe Shahal and heads of the Chinese delegation to the international energy fair. The talk between the Israeli and Chinese representatives took place towards the end of the fair which was in Cannes on the French Riviera. It took place following an approach by the Israeli delegation. The day before, during the opening events of the fair, Minister Shahal and the Chinese deputy minister of energy became "caught up" in an initial conversation which was described as "extensive and substantive." Yesterday's Israeli-Chinese verbal exchange lasted about a half hour and, according to Israeli officials, was notable for its purposeful and direct approach. The Israelis reported no noticeable signs of "political sensitivities." The Chinese, it turns out, are interested in selling their own coal. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Oct 86 p 2] 9348/9190

CSO: 4423/5

JORDAN

BRIEFS

AQABA TRADE VOLUME--The volume of trade through Aqaba port rose by more than 18 per cent in January-March, compared with first quarter 1985. Imports reached 832,900 tonnes, from 766,000 tonnes; transit trade was up to 2.6 million tonnes, from 2.3 million tonnes, and exports totalled 2.9 million tonnes, against 2.3 million tonnes. [Text] [London MEED in English 1 Nov 86 p 17] /13046

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT RISES--The industrial output index in July reached 195.7, compared with 172.8 in June and 192.2 in May (1979 = 100). The cost of living index climbed to 127.1, from June's 126.9, central bank data show. Assets of commercial banks fell slightly, to JD 2,558,596 (\$8.02 million), from June's JD 2,559,070 (\$8.03 million). [Text] [London MEED in English 1 Nov 86 p 17] /13046

UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL RISES--The number of unemployed will rise to 40,000 in 1987 and to 100,000 by 1990, a 20 October seminar on the local labour market was told. The 1986-90 five-year development plan aims at producing 200,000 new jobs. Despite this, surplus labour will rise by 5,000-10,000 a year, the Kuwait daily Al-Watan reports. Official studies presented to the seminar show there are about 120,000 foreigners working in Jordan at present; 60,000 Jordanians are studying abroad. [Text] [London MEED in English 1 Nov 86 p 17] /13046

CAMPAIGN AGAINST BEGGING--A crackdown on beggars, some of whom earn more than JD 600 (\$1,882) a month, has started, the Labour & Social Development Ministry says. The public has been asked to report offenders as part of a campaign to stop what the government describes as the "un-Islamic and negative phenomenon of begging." A special camp is to be set up in Aqaba to provide shelter while cases are studied, and a national aid fund has been established to help the needy. [Text] [London MEED in English 1 Nov 86 p 17] /13046

CSO: 4400/57

LEBANON

MINISTER AL-HASHIM DISCUSSES REGIONAL SITUATION

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 7 Nov 86 pp 19-21

[Interview with Joseph al-Hashim by Walim Dahir: "The South Is an International Green Line and Lebanon's Ordeal Will End When Its Ordeal Ends!"; date and place not specified]

[Text] The voice of minister Joseph al-Hashim does not die down, be it at the government palace or on "Voice of Lebanon." He maintains the same personality and presence in and out of government and some say in power and out of government. At a time when others are cutting all threads and burning all bridges and boats behind them, the minister of Post, Telecommunications, Health and Social Affairs holds on to "Mu'awiyah's hair" with everyone because he believes, as he said in his interview with AL-HAWADITH, that dialogue is more advantageous with all people, all parties, and all countries.

Minister al-Hashim stressed the need to arrive at a truce lest the country, and with it the citizenry and the land, be lost, emphasizing that such a truce is a prelude to a solution effected by international and regional pressures brought to bear by the whole group of influential Lebanese leaders.

He added: The national unity government has turned into a national division government. It is in need of someone who can unite it so that it may unite the people. In his long interview with AL-HAWADITH, he stressed the fact that dialogue has been hampered, not because of the verbal duel between President Sham'un and Prime Minister Karami, but for more far-reaching reasons, namely, the fact that behind the horse race interlocutors stand other interlocutors.

Minister al-Hashim disclosed the resumption last week of triple endeavors--papal, West German led by Strauss, and Arab led by a party that has influence with the Lebanese and Syrian government--following failed efforts to bring the viewpoints of Presidents al-Asad and al-Jumayyil closer together and cool the temperature between Damascus and Beirut. He also disclosed that contacts undertaken recently have yielded some positive results and are still ongoing. He said that, in principle, he supports an army presence at any location, especially in the south which is an international line of contact, adding that when the issue of the south is settled, the overall issue of Lebanon will be settled as well. Al-Hashim intimated that the situation in the south will lead to greater attrition rather than to a blitzkrieg or regional clashes, and

that pent-up pressures may lead to more outbreaks. He said: "I do not see an invasion on the horizon."

Minister al-Hashim revealed a phrase he proposed during meetings of the government dialogue commission for reconciling President Sham'un's viewpoint with the one advocating privileged relations with Syria. Following is the text of the interview with Minister al-Hashim.

[Question] The general climate in the country varies between limited outbreaks and escalation that can lead to a serious explosion. What do you expect in this regard?

[Answer] This matter goes back to the beginning of the Lebanese war or, more accurately, the war against Lebanon. It is natural that certain bettors instigated the outbreak of war against Lebanon. Let us not forget that, with the outbreak of this war, various organizations with different loyalties to various countries joined this war when Palestinian presence and practices came into the picture. Today, the situation in Lebanon is developing and branching out into broader and more far-reaching concerns. This crisis used to be linked to the Middle East crisis, formerly known as the Palestinian crisis. Today, it is linked to the Middle East situation and to the gains and wagers being set at the expense of Lebanon and its interests at the geographic, political, and human levels. Hence, escalation and detente or explosion are two subjects closely related to developments in the confrontation with ambitions and designs against Lebanon, be they related to its geography or its distinguished position in this area.

[Question] The dialogue has been put on ice, as everyone knows, and, of course, contacts are under way to revive and resume it. Is there any hope that it will be resumed soon or has it been broken off for good?

[Answer] This matter dictates that we be clear and candid. I do not think that the dialogue depends on the persons of the horse race interlocutors. There are other interlocutors standing behind them. Therefore, the dialogue will attain its goals and coveted results when the outside interlocutors decide that it is in their interests to push this dialogue forward. I believe that recent developments have somehow convinced the staunch advocates of the Lebanese crisis that the continuation of this crisis has turned into a liability far greater than the gains they hope to reap from it. Therefore, owing to ongoing contacts on more than one level, the initiatives that are under way in particular, we expect to put international positivism, be it regional or foreign, in motion, that positivism that has stated that the continuation of the war in Lebanon or the persistent use of Lebanon as a theater for terrorism and military pressures is bound to have many negative effects on the countries that are betting on an explosive Lebanon to achieve certain gains. Countries have become well aware that a stable Lebanon brings them positive results. Those who have paid high prices throughout this long war, however, cannot drop their wagers without some kind of price. Our role is to accomodate such prices without any harm to Lebanon's sovereignty, freedom, dignity, independence, and order. This is what we are doing at the diplomatic and international contacts level.

[Question] In the shade of these givens and whatever information you have, do you expect imminent solutions to the Lebanese crisis?

[Answer] I have said that imminent solutions to the crisis are linked to whatever interests can be realized by those who are instigating it in a way that fluctuates between the positive and the negative. No one is looking after Lebanon's interests or those of the Lebanese people. When we achieve a balance between the bait and what the fish want, we can reach a solution in the sense that the price will not be high at the expense of Lebanon's values as a nation, a government, and a people.

[Question] If the dialogue depends on outside parties standing behind the horse race interlocutors and the local ones have no power to come out with practical solutions, what good will it do to continue the dialogue and what is the sense of ongoing contacts to resume it?

[Answer] At least we must arrive at a truce. Persistent security, political, and economic outbreaks and the serious negative implications and repercussions on the citizenry, on the Lebanese nation, and on the Lebanese government that they entail, lead to serious attrition that dissipates the country, the people, and the land as well. If, through dialogue, we are able to establish some kind of a truce, a truce that can serve as a prelude to a solution through international and regional pressure by all the influential Lebanese leaders, I believe that the dialogue will reach a certain positive stage, particularly if it leads, while still in its early stage, to closer points of view and a certain Lebanese unity. The Lebanese people, if challenged, can impose a solution on anyone. Non-solution is caused by internal Lebanese divisions and a solution, when a united word, a united position, and a united rank are attained, can be imposed on anyone. Because we are divided, scattered, and fragmented vertically and horizontally at the government, regime, state, and cabinet levels, something of which we are ashamed, the so-called national unity government becomes a national division government. If the people are divided and the land is dissipated, the government must bring the people together and unite the land. But we see that the government itself is divided and it seems that today we need someone to unite the government so that it may unite the people. Therefore, this dangerous situation, which we are experiencing, cannot lead to a solution so long as we are divided and scattered both, vertically, and horizontally.

[Question] The verbal duel that reached the point of a heated confrontation in parliament between President Sham'un and Prime Minister Karami indicates that divisions still exist in depth and do not herald the resumption of the dialogue any time soon.

[Answer] Verbal duels between politicians, in parliament particularly, do not scare me. Regardless of what subjects are raised and how radical viewpoints are, they remain in a somewhat permissible democratic framework. What is absolutely impermissible, however, is political division in one government with regard to the general position. Verbal duels are part of democracy which we must safeguard and preserve. Naturally, there are different viewpoints and different positions with regard to the aims and aspirations of President Sham'un and Prime Minister Karami. No country maintains a single viewpoint on

all matters. In the oldest democratic countries, be it France, the United States, or Switzerland, we know that there are very different points of view even on foreign affairs and matters of destiny. However, the final public decision issued by the state or the government is binding upon all. The unfortunate thing is that we have a rift and divisions over matters of destiny. Such divisions have led to political blocs, each one accepting an opposing and confrontational stance with respect to the other, while democratic practice dictates that discussions and dialogues be held on disputed matters to reach a solution or a common stance. This does not mean, however, that dialogue has been hampered or is stumbling because of the verbal duel between President Sham'un and Prime Minister Karami. There are other more profound reasons for that.

[Question] What are these reasons and why do we not make them public?

[Answer] I have said that behind the horse race interlocutors stand other interlocutors. The unfortunate thing in Lebanon is that some Lebanese are impossible to reach directly, a fact of which we have been aware since early 1975. If you want to get to Lebanon or some Lebanese leaders, you have to go to the outside to find your way to them through a window or a door. If this is the solution, so be it. I have said if the dialogue with the local interlocutors cannot lead to any results, why not talk to those who can lead us to the desired solution?

[Question] I understand from what you say your excellency that the dialogue will not be resumed before receiving the green light from abroad. It appears that any dialogue will fall on deaf ears if the Lebanese and Syrian governments fail to come to an understanding. What has become of endeavors and initiatives aimed at bringing closer together the viewpoints of Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad?

[Answer] There were triple endeavors: a papal one, one undertaken by Strauss, and an Arab one. These efforts were relatively hampered at some point a week ago. I am revealing this for the first time. Efforts, one might say the triple endeavors, have been resumed within this framework. Effective contacts that carry weight with the Lebanese and Syrian regimes are under way at the Arab levels. This endeavor was resumed a week ago and rapid contacts aimed at cooling off the situation and ending the rift between the two regimes, if you will, are under way.

[Question] Is it true that the Algerian endeavor collided with the rejection of some Arab sides? What did the Algerian delegation raise with the Lebanese leaders? And on what basis was this endeavor undertaken and is it still in progress?

[Answer] This question takes us back to the visit I personally paid to His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. In light of this visit, coordination between us and the Algerian ambassador in Lebanon was instituted. We almost arrived at an Algerian Arab initiative that did not exclude Syria because we are well aware that any counter or opposite initiative or any imposed, radical, or biased one will be doomed to failure. We also know that Algeria enjoys an important position at the general Arab level and it can

undertake an active role in helping the Lebanese first to solve their problems among themselves and help Lebanon surmount all the pent-up or complicated matters that have led to a kind of strain in its relations with Syria. There were contacts that included supreme spiritual leaders, at a Christian as well as a Muslim level, and the speaker of the house, Mr Husayn al-Husayni, who a while back visited Algeria. If indeed this visit was delayed, it was because the Algerian president had to have surgery in Belgium. The Algerian delegation that visited Lebanon recently based its endeavors on specific, previously drawn outlines calling for Algerian help to some Arab countries, which occupy a position that does not play on any kind of Arab sensitivity, in turning the wheels of the Lebanese dialogue. The Algerian delegation returned after holding contacts here and I believe that Algerian contacts will be resumed, particularly since the Algerian president dispatched his foreign minister a month ago to meet with Syrian officials. As for what subsequent steps will be taken in this regard, this is what we are currently working on and anticipating.

[Question] It is a known fact that the papal initiative was put on hold at some point due to differences between the Apostolic See and the sides who are regionally concerned with this initiative. On what basis will this initiative resume and what hope do you hold for Patriarch Sufayr's visit to the Vatican and Paris?

[Answer] I do not maintain that the papal initiative has been put on hold, nor do I maintain that Strauss's initiative or the one undertaken by a prominent Arab authority has been discontinued. I say that the fruits are not yet ripe. The important thing is that contacts held recently have yielded certain positive results. We cannot anticipate things now so long as these contacts are in progress.

Regarding Patriarch Sufayr's visit, it was not one specially organized to explain the Lebanese situation. The patriarch observes certain occasions during which thorny and complicated Lebanese topics are brought up in circles that include the patriarch and the supreme spiritual leaders such as His Holiness the Pope and his senior aides. The same thing goes for French officials, for he plans to visit France as well.

[Question] Is there anything on the horizon that points to the possibility of reaching an international agreement between the two giants to solve the Lebanese crisis soon?

[Answer] International agreement is embodied in an international conference requested by the Soviet Union. In a recent meeting with the Soviet ambassador, we talked about this subject. Israel has rejected the idea of an international conference. This is what has affected contacts with the United States and some European countries.

From our standpoint, we hope for any kind of initiative, but I did have some personal observations about the international conference because it does not represent an organization and an authority with decision-making powers. What we do expect are resolutions issued by an international conference, notwithstanding official agencies called the United Nations Authority and the

United Nations Organization that have issued a number of resolutions (?) Ever since the beginning of the war against Lebanon and to this day, not one of these resolutions has been implemented. You might say that direct relations or a direct agreement, for there are precedents such as the Yalta affair between the Soviet Union and the United States, may lead to faster, better, and more wholesome solutions than resolutions issued by an international group united under the United Nations Authority or the United Nations Organization. This may be so. However, this subject is being handled as part of a general deal for charting the map of the entire world or the international map, keeping in mind that we have noticed a disagreement between the United States and the Soviet Union over something of concern to both of them and over Star Wars. When a dispute is of direct concern to both countries, how can we hope for an agreement that is helpful to us?

[Question] In the last meeting of the governmental dialogue commission, you discussed the situation in the south and decided to send the army there. The army did not go. What are the features of the future situation in the south, given the facts you have? And do you personally expect a regional confrontation that will alter situations and equations?

[Answer] In principle, we support the army presence everywhere and in the south particularly. If the south is the doorway to war, perhaps it can be turned into a doorway to peace. Not to be presumptuous or excessive or arrogant, the south today is an international green line and not a bone of contention between the Southern Army on one side and the Palestinian organizations on another side and others on yet another side. Reaching a solution to the question of the south means solving the question of Lebanon as well.

As for expectations, I do not see on the horizon a blitzkrieg or regional clashes, if you will, as much as I notice that the situation will lead to more vehement attrition. Let us not overlook the fact that excessive pressure may lead to violent outbreaks. The matter that posed the strongest danger was the subject of terrorism which has had a significant international impact. As we remember, the preamble to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 was Palestinian terrorism that almost constituted a great and serious detriment to various international interests. When Israel went into Lebanon, it did so with a universal green light at the foreign and, I might say, Arab level. In other words, there was a suitable international cover and climate for this entry. I do not know if preparations in progress, perhaps aided by those who claim to adopt a radical stance against Israel, helped in that, wittingly or otherwise. I do not know if daily manifestations of the paroxysmal situation, daily practices, hijackings and abductions, driving embassies out of the country, and abduction of diplomats represent the same kind of preparations undertaken prior to 1982.

[Question] It is understood from what you say that you expect an invasion of Lebanon should conditions and positions continue to change and escalate?

[Answer] I do not see an invasion on the horizon. I do see, however, many aggravations, pressures, and intertwined conditions detrimental to all international interests that will inevitably lead to an outburst.

[Question] The Phalange is calling for the revival of the Lebanese Front. What are their motivations particularly since efforts are being made by the other side to set up a similar political front? Do you not perceive in this kind of separation of military and sectarian forces preparation for military escalation or a phase of fierce political struggle?

[Answer] Political struggle does not scare me. Sectarian separation has been in existence but there is more than that. There is confessional separation. Having a political front here and another one there is a good thing and is part of the climate we have in Lebanon--the democratic climate. This transcends confessional struggle, considering that the Front is involved in politics. Of course, the fear is that the front being organized under a political cover will be used for military massings for a military confrontation here or there. Having a front here or there dealing in political affairs is a good thing and may help surmount sectarian and confessional conflicts in Lebanon. The important thing is that involvement by both fronts be political as part of the democratic game.

[Question] You have had meetings and contacts with Mr 'Asim Qansuwah. It was said at the time that Qansuwah was getting ready for a visit you were to undertake to Damascus. What has become of these contacts?

[Answer] There were meetings in the past and, of course, there are not-so-close contacts between me and Mr 'Asim Qansuwah. The important thing is that I am in touch with all people. This is my political style. Political practice is understood in terms of different styles, different means, and different convictions. I, for one, believe that if we want, through political practice, to reduce the damage and the danger threatening Lebanon, we must engage in political contacts. Therefore, I undertook contacts with all people without exception. How strange it is. We, the Lebanese, do not maintain contacts among ourselves, for this may be prohibited, while we make contacts with everyone else on the outside. The Lebanese have contacts on the outside and this is allowed. But it is not allowed to have contacts among ourselves. We, as Lebanese, want to save Lebanon from this grave dilemma. How? If politics is an art or an action that must be enlisted in the service of humanity and the nation, politics prescribes practice, practice prescribes contacts and if contacts are held with strangers, all the more reason to have them with close people as well. It is not important that your contacts share your view. On the contrary. The significance of such contacts is to bring the estranged closer together at a personal as well as intellectual and conviction level. If we want to transcend parochial considerations, we must talk. What is dialogue? It is what leads to agreement or disagreement. I am one of those who believe that dialogue is the best tactic with all people, all sides, all parties, and all countries and on the diplomatic level as well, without going into our own shell. If we are to be relegated geographically to an area extending from Kfar Shima to al-Madfun, it may be geographically feasible, but politically the whole world must be a theater for our dialogue.

[Question] It is said that the item related to special relations with Syria was what hampered the dialogue because each party was clinging to its only

position. Was it not possible to reach a formula conducive to an understanding on this situation?

[Answer] I think that Lebanon's salvation is not contingent on one word or interpretation of some words. It is as though we are trying to outwit one another in the style of Nassif al-Yaziji and his aides. Because one party insisted on the term "privileged relations" and President Sham'un asked for close and special relations, I wanted to reconcile the two points of view, so I proposed a phrase saying "Lebanon is a free, sovereign, and independent country which is privileged to have close and special relations with Syria." This way we combined the controversial term "privilege" with the words "close and special" which President Sham'un wanted. But, as I have already stated, it is not so much a question of words as a much deeper matter. At any rate, I have called and still call for the resumption of dialogue sessions that are bound to dissipate existing convulsions. It is enough that such sessions yield certain positive results at the social and economic levels which have been stifling and bearing down heavily upon the Lebanese people.

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LEBANON

FADLALLAH DISCUSSES TAXATION OF LEBANESE IN FRANCE

London AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 8 Nov 86 pp 41-42

[Interview with George Fadlallah: "Attorney George Fadlallah Explains French Tax Rate System Applied to Lebanese and Arabs in France"; date and place not specified]

[Text] The new tax rate applied to Lebanese subjects living in France, published exclusively in AL-MUSTAQBAL (issue 493), includes many tax exemptions and simplifications. A large number of Lebanese subjects, however, who are used to handling the complexities of the French Internal Revenue Service, failed to understand and grasp all the provisions and dimensions of this new rate.

Since the general tax concept in France requires every taxpayer to look after his own rights, and in order to expound on the terms of the said tax rate, AL-MUSTAQBAL met with Lebanese attorney George Fadlallah, who followed and contributed to all phases of the agreement throughout many long months and was responsible for surmounting all obstacles impeding this agreement, to have the following dialogue:

[Question] What are the advantages of the new tax agreement between Lebanon and France for Lebanese citizens living in France?

[Answer] This agreement has three advantages:

First, simplification and clarity. It is known that the tax system in France is very complicated, something that has caused the Lebanese many anxieties they have been unable to overcome. They sometimes preferred to be in violation of the law rather than to venture into the dark halls of the complicated French tax system. Therefore, the new voluntary rate puts forth simplified regulations based on normal life manifestations everyone can understand and grasp.

Second, the tax assessment basis was randomly set at a level much lower than the generally-observed standard, because income tax is collected from the Lebanese on the basis that their total income is equal to one and a half times the rental value of their housing in France.

Hence, a family of four paying a monthly rate of 5,000 francs (not including rental charges) must pay, based on this tax rate, 500 francs a month, or one-third of the tax assessment equal, in this case, to about 1,500 francs a month.

Third, the most important feature of this rate is that it is voluntary, not mandatory, and applies only to those who wish to observe it. This matter raised many difficulties during the negotiations because it deviated from the norms of the tax laws which are mandatory by nature.

[Question] What is the rental value?

[Answer] If the residence is rented, the rental value is the amount of rent paid for housing. If the residence is occupied by its owner or is unrented, the rental value is equal to the amount of rent such a residence brings in accordance with the rental market terms. It must be explained here that the rental value observed by the market is different than the one observed in computing the housing tax.

[Question] Who is affected by this new tax rate?

[Answer] The rate, as I have already said, is voluntary. Therefore, it affects those who choose to opt for it in the form of an agreement between them and the French administration. Consequently, those who opt for the new rate will be the ones who decide that it is to their advantage and no one else.

[Question] Can all Lebanese living in France resort to it?

[Answer] We insisted, during the negotiations that preceded the ratification of the new rate, that there will be no discrimination among the Lebanese. Hence, the new protocol may be applied generally to Lebanese living in France on income coming in from abroad.

Naturally, those working in France and receiving income from French sources cannot resort to this protocol. Otherwise, there would be discrimination among the Lebanese in this regard.

[Question] Can a Lebanese subject living in France on money received from abroad benefit from this new rate?

[Answer] If he wishes to do that because the said rate is not mandatory.

[Question] Regardless of the amount of money sent to him from abroad?

[Answer] Yes, regardless of the amount of money one receives from abroad. Even if the amount were to total hundreds of thousands of francs a month, the tax is assessed on the basis of the rental value of the residence in France.

[Question] What happens when a residency permit is obtained in France?

[Answer] A residency permit in itself has no influence on the new rate. In other words, a Lebanese subject may obtain a residency permit without losing the opportunity to benefit from the said rate. The important thing is that sources of income must remain outside France.

[Question] Lebanon signed a tax agreement with France in July 1962. One purpose of it was to avoid double taxation. Is this agreement still in effect or has it been amended in accordance with the new agreement?

[Answer] The agreement is still valid and in force, as evidenced by the fact that the joint French-Lebanese committee, mentioned in Article 40 of the agreement, still holds its meetings. I hope that the next meeting will be held in Lebanon, the painful circumstances notwithstanding, particularly since Dr Joseph Tarabay and Mr Mustafa al-Hindi at the Lebanese Ministry of Finance are watching over the proper implementation of this agreement.

This is a good agreement and it is not in our interest to amend or freeze it. International treaties in the tax field, however, are concluded for peacetime and not for wartime. There is a Latin rule that says that international treaties remain in effect provided that conditions do not change it. Because of events in Lebanon, it is difficult to enforce the 1962 agreement.

Therefore, prior to the enactment of the new rate, the Lebanese faced numerous legal and practical difficulties in dealing with their tax affairs in France. They feared that the enforcement of the agreement in its entirety would subject them to the harsh French tax. The underlying reason is that the purpose of the 1962 agreement was to avoid tax accumulation on the same profits whereby taxes are paid twice, once in Lebanon and once in France.

According to this agreement, the Lebanese are exempt from paying taxes in France if they can prove that their economic and familial interests are found primarily in Lebanon or at least that they live with their families in Lebanon for the greater part of the year and must prove that they pay income taxes in Lebanon.

In most cases, the Lebanese have been unable to provide definite proof of these matters. Failing that, Lebanese subjects living in France with their families are subject to the high rate of French taxation, noting that this tax is collected on the basis of the total overall income, particularly the part the Lebanese receive from outside France, contrary to what many Lebanese citizens believe.

Thus emerged the idea of instituting another system that protects the Lebanese from these risks and takes into consideration their special status and the heavy losses they have suffered as well as their part in stimulating the French economy. Hence, the amended voluntary system which is parallel to the 1962 agreement coexists with it without nullifying or amending it so as to safeguard the interests of the Lebanese who can now benefit from the agreement or the new schedule, depending on which one they choose.

Hence, every Lebanese living in France or maintaining interests there has to study his tax status to decide which of the two systems suits him best: the new system or the 1962 agreement.

The French government, by approving this voluntary system, has done us a great favor.

[Question] Has the new agreement been signed?

[Answer] French and Lebanese authorities have approved the new rate. This rate is not a protocol signed by two parties, but rather an exchange of letters signed by the Minister of the Budget, Alan Jubier for the French side, and the Lebanese ambassador to France, Amir Faruq Abi al-Lam', for the Lebanese side.

Thus, in principle, the new rate has gone into effect and we are seeking to prepare special tax forms for the Lebanese who choose to adopt the new tax rate.

[Question] In effect, what must the Lebanese do?

[Answer] The Lebanese must do the following:

1. Analyze their situation to choose what is best for them: the rate or the agreement.
2. If they choose the new rate, they must declare their taxes on regular paper or on the form we are in the process of preparing and will be available to them soon.
3. The declaration must be submitted before next March. This is with regard to when. As for where, the French administration is still studying the matter and is organizing a special department for the Lebanese which I believe will be open for business by the end of this year.

[Question] Is it better for the Lebanese to submit a declaration or wait for the French administration's audit?

[Answer] Those who choose to submit a declaration will be exempt from taxes for the years prior to the implementation of the new rate.

[Question] What is the status of the tax audit being conducted on some Lebanese subjects?

[Answer] In principle, the auditing process which started prior to the new rate must take its natural course. However, under an extraordinary measure, people under audit can benefit from the new rate, provided that they submit a formal request to this effect before their audit is completed.

The dialogue with Lebanese attorney George Fadlallah thus came to an end. AL-MUSTAQBAL will pursue this subject, which is very important to every Lebanese living in France, by publishing updates in subsequent articles.

12502

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LEBANON

BRIEFS

SYRIAN POWER FOR SOUTH LEBANON-- Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Mr Nabih Birri, minister of justice and the south, in the presence of South Council members Muhammad Baydun and Haytham Jum'ah as well as Syrian Minister of Public Works Muhammad Riyad Baghdadi and Minister of Electric Power Kamil al-Bab. Minister Nabih Birri told AL-HAWADITH that discussions during this meeting with the Syrian prime minister dealt with the recently-concluded agreement between the two sides to supply the Lebanese south with electric power from Syria. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Nov 86 p 6] 12502

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OMAN

PROGRESS MADE IN AREA OF OIL, GAS

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES (Oman Supplement) in English 16 Nov 86 pp 9, 11

[Text]

THERE have been several new strikes of oil and gas in recent months in Oman. They are being prospected in different regions of the country and are expected to be brought on stream in due course, holding great promise for the economy which even today relies heavily on oil.

The daily yield of crude, which was 550,000 barrels last year, rose to around 620,000bpd by August this year. This follows improved performance in some newly-discovered fields in Central Oman-Sayyala area and the better-than-anticipated output from some North Oman fields.

However, keeping in line with the Opec's policy of cutback in production, Oman reduced the daily output by 50,000 barrels, to 565,000bpd now. This clearly shows the solidarity that Oman has forged with the Opec member-states in the matter of production and pricing, though the Sultanate, with its comparatively modest output and export, is yet to become an Opec member.

The bulk of oil produced continues to be by the Petroleum Development Oman (555,000 bpd), wherein the Government has a 60 per cent shareholding. The other producers are Elf Aquitaine, Oman with 5,500 bpd, Oxy 3,300bpd and Japex

150bpd. Japan Petroleum Development (JPD) discovered some minor oil accumulations recently, but their commercial viability is yet to be established.

There have been significant developments in the field of gas and laying of pipelines to sustain operations in oil and gas.

A three-faceted experiment, believed to be highly futuristic by petroleum technologists, is now being put through in different parts of the country to improve yields the enhanced oil recovery techniques being employed here use steam and polymer treatment and 'water-flooding' of docile beds. It has attracted a great deal of attention as it has never been used in the Arab Gulf region and seems to hold promise for Oman's neighbours as well.

Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said bin Ahmed Al Shanfari answers questions in an interview to Khaleej Times:

What has been the progress so far with new enhanced oil recovery techniques involving polymer and steam injection?

A pilot steam flood project has been operational in Marmul since mid-1985 and a polymer pre-pilot started in October 1986. In Qarn Alam, the hot water injection test was started at the end of last year. Steam soak trials, using the steam generation facilities of the steam

flood pilot, are to commence in Marmul by the end of 1986. Last month, steam soak trials, using mobile steam generation equipment, started at Rahab; they are to be extended to Amal and Nimr.

It is too early to forecast the improvement in oil production rate, since it takes anywhere between three and five years for the steam pilot and polymer pilot to be effective in recovering more oil from the planned areas. However, preliminary indications are that the steam pilot has been effective in improving the sweep efficiency of heavy oil contained within the pore space, as indicated by the recently-drilled observation well in the Marmul steam pilot area.

Assuming a recovery of 25 per cent, the technical costs of 'steam oil' are in the range of \$26 to \$28 per barrel. However, since the majority of the expenditure has already been incurred during 1984-85 on a cash-in-cash-out basis for a two-year period, the continuation of the Marmul Steam Drive Pilot Project results in oil costing around \$3 to \$5 per barrel. Keeping in view the long-term results and benefits, these projects are being continued.

But the Marmul Steam Soak Project is estimated to yield oil at a cost of \$ one to \$3 per barrel. The definite costs of 'mobile steam soak oil' will be available in a year's time, after the successful trials at the Rahab, Amal and Nimr fields.

In addition, 'supplemental recovery projects' include the major water-flood in Yibal and a pilot water-flood in Lekhwair, to be followed by a full-scale water injection in 1991.

Gas/oil gravity drainage, enhanced by gas injection has been successfully applied in Fahud.

Where have the new strikes been in oil and gas in recent months?

Several oil and gas fields have been discovered in various parts of the Sultanate (see list). None of these discoveries have gone on stream yet.

1986 Discoveries

Daleel-1, -2	(Oil)	Japex
Al Sahwa-1	(Gas)	Japex
Bukha-2	(Gas and Condensate)	IPC*
Asfoor-2	(Oil)	PDO
Salwa-1	(Oil)	PDO
Thuleilat-2	(Oil)	PDO
Yibal-192	(Oil)	PDO
Sayyad-1	(Oil)	PDO
Zahra-1	(Oil)	PDO
Khulud-1	(Gas)	PDO
Haban-1	(Gas)	PDO
Hasirah-4	(Gas and Oil)	PDO

*International Petroleum Corporation

What is the daily crude output of Oman now? How much of it is accounted for by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), how much by the other concessionaries.

Presently, the average crude output is 565,000 barrels per day. Of this, PDO produces around 555,000bpd, Elf 5,500, Oxy 3,300 and Japex 150, JPD is yet to establish commercial viability of some of its recently-discovered minor oil accumulations.

Due to the improved performance of some of the recently discovered oilfields in the Central Oman-Sayyala area, as well as the better-than-anticipated production of some North Oman fields, production was increased to around 620,000bpd in August this year. However, keeping in line with the Opec's production cutback policy, Oman has decreased its production by around 50,000bpd.

The average gravity of Oman Export Crude is about 35.4° API. The API gravities of Elf, Japex and Oxy are 45.9°, 45.6° and 45.6°, respectively.

Have any new pipelines been laid in the last two years?

The replacement of the main oil line of 276km from Fahud to Mina Al Fahal commenced in 1982-83 and was continued throughout 1984 and 1985. The work was completed early this year, with the construction of the final 100-km stretch of a 38-inch loopline. The original 30"-32"-36" line was replaced with 30"-42"-38" size main oil line.

The available capacity of the main oil line has been increased step by step, to a level of between 650,000 and 700,000 bpd of total throughput. This was also accomplished as a result of various looplines that were constructed between Marmul and Hubara, Hubara and Sahmah, Sahmah and Qarn Alam and Qarn Alam and Nahada sections of the main oil line.

In the first two sections, a 28" loopline was used whereas for the next two sections a 36" loopline was used. The 28" loopline is 189km in length, and the 36" loopline 77km.

In order to utilise the increased capacity arising out of the pipeline looping programme, the pumping capacity at intermediate booster stations was

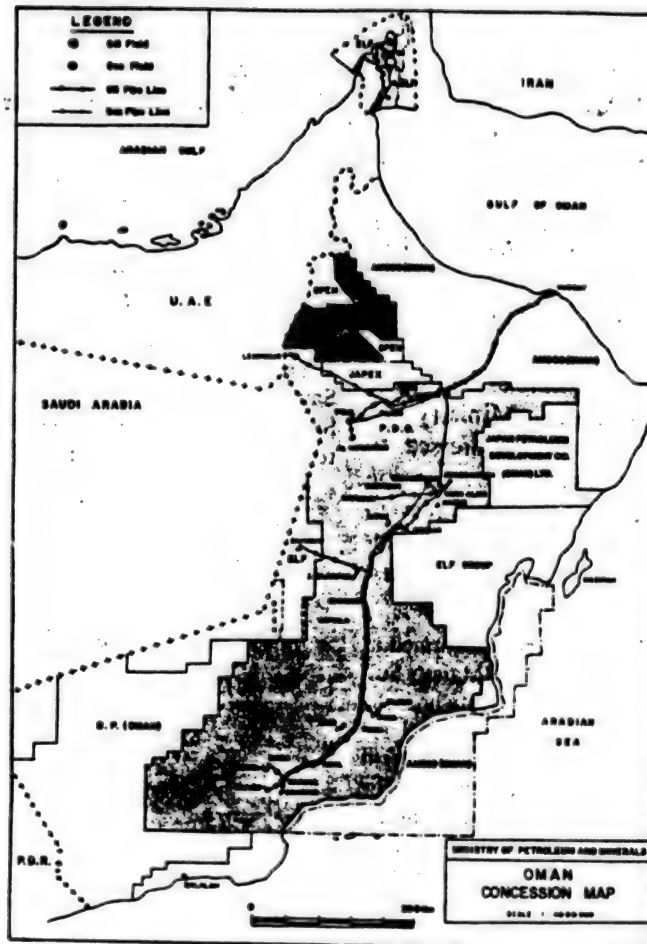
also increased by installing additional pumps at Hubara, Sahmah, Qarn Alam and Nahada.

In addition, many crude oil delivery lines have been constructed to connect about 15 new fields that started during 1985-86. Also completed this year was a 24" crude oil evacuation line from Lekhwair to Fahud, replacing the earlier smaller-capacity line which has been converted into a gas line.

Construction of a 120km 36" gas loop-line was completed during 1985-86, to meet increasing demands of gas by the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Oman Cement Company and other industries located within the Rusayl Industrial Estate (in the Capital area).

What is the progress in exploration for gas?

The progress of exploration activities is satisfactory. Gas reserves have been increased as several new gas fields have been discovered. Power generation in the Capital area, along the Batinah coast and at the Sohar copper mines depends on gas, instead of previously-used liquid hydro-carbon.



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OMAN

SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF DHOFAR DESCRIBED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES (Oman Supplement) in English 16 Nov 86 pp 24-25

[Text]

"Dhofar is a great and noble and fine city and lies 500 miles to the N.W. (sic) of Esher (Shihr). It stands upon the sea and has a very good haven so that there is a great traffic of shipping between this and India; and the merchants take hence great numbers of Arab horses to that market, making great profits thereby. The city has many towns and villages. Much white incense is produced here and I will tell you how it grows. The trees are like small fir trees; these are notched with a knife in several places and from these notches the incense is exuded. Sometimes it also flows from the tree without any notch; this is by reason of the great heat of the sun there."—MARCO POLO

DHOFAR is the southern province of Oman, the garden of the Sultanate. Today, when we speak of Dhofar we usually mean South Dhofar, the Qara mountains and the coastal plain where Salalah, the provincial Capital, stands.

The geography and climate of Dhofar is unique to the rest of the country. The coast, close to the border of South Yemen where mountains of 1,500 metres fall steeply to the seas contrasts strikingly with the green, arable coastal plains further east. Here you will find coconuts, palms in abundance and fresh sweet water flowing down from the mountains to irrigate the plain. Towering over the plain, providing an awesome backdrop is the Jebel rising to heights of over 2,000 metres.

For practically half of the year Dhofar is enveloped in the mists of the monsoon during which time the jebel and plain are hidden in low cloud and haze often lowering to a damp clinging drizzle. The sea becomes high, grey and angry and swimming or other water sports are strongly advised against.

September, the month of brilliant green vegetation, blooming wild flowers and calm seas which the monsoons produce is much looked forward to and welcomed and is the time when Salalah's spectacular beauty emerges and flourishes.

Dhofar is said to have been the Ophir of the Bible and Hadramaut to have been identified with Hadoram as mentioned in the book of Genesis. As early as 1000 BC traders were shipping frankincense from Dhofar to the markets of Egypt

and Assyria. The frankincense bush, a surprising source of a priceless commodity grows profusely in the southern province—the bushes that grow now are those that grew in ancient times. Different areas produce different varieties of frankincense, the highest quality 'Silver Frankincense' is found near the Qara mountains, the lowest quality nearest the sea. In far off days frankincense was an important part of the burial ceremony but as supplies were limited, it became priceless, a gift of it was considered a sign of great generosity and very high esteem.

Nowadays, however, the mystique has faded somewhat and there are no scarcity problems. From March to August the bushes are tapped and the latex in solid droplets is left to dry in the warm sun. But although

frankincense is now widely available in the souks and markets, this in no way detracts from the rarity of its perfume. Roll a droplet in your hand, close your eyes and smell—it's difficult to believe that such perfumed sweetness is the product of this stunted unpretentious bush.

The origin of Dhofar's people is unclear—many probably originated in the Tigris/Euphrates valley. Now there are three main tribes and many sub-tribes of the region. The Qara, collectively called the Jebeli, came to Dhofar perhaps 1,000 years ago.

The Jebelis, mainly cattle breeders, are a small and wiry people with long curly black hair. Like all the tribespeople, their dress is simple: the men wear a 'wizar' or sarong of heavy material dyed with indigo, and tied around the waist, with a second strip across the shoulders. They carry a rifle, khanjar or dagger and stick, and the long hair is tied back in a bun, and would around with leather thongs.

Their women wear beautiful brilliant colours, with a bright headcloth typical of the south, and many are masked. They live in the hills, their houses are circular stone huts with straw roofs—in the summer they move into tents to follow grazing for their cattle. During the monsoon, the cattle are kept inside to protect them from vicious flies. The Jebelis are a lively, intelligent and quick-witted tribe.

The Mahra came to Dhofar about 700 years ago, although their movements continued for about 400 years. They never integrated with the Jebeli and inhabit the lower slopes of the mountains to the north and south. They herd camels, and live a nomadic life, moving to the plains in summer in search of fodder for their animals.

The most recent arrival was that of the Bait Mathir tribe. They originated from the Hadramaut and live mainly on the Salalah plain and in the desert on the edge of the Rub al-khali, or Empty Quarter. They quickly came to dominate trade in the area.

The tribes speak various languages, derived from the old South Arabian tongues of Sabean, Hadhrami and Qatabanian. The Jebeli speak Jebeli or Shheri, which has three main dialects and a minor one on the Kuria Muria islands. The most recent immigrants speak the related tongues of Mahri, Haususi, and Bahtari—closely related to inscriptions found in Delos in the Aegean, and Ethiopia, and possibly a survival of ancient Himyaritic.

Salalah is a modern city set amongst coconut groves and banana plantations, sprawled along the glorious sandy beach that runs the length of its plain. Low villas are surrounded by gardens of bougainvillea and flame trees. The lush green vegetation gives the city a semi-tropical air.

Three main roads run parallel to the coast. Qaboos Street follows the shore past the souk and Al-Hisn Palace, and the Wali's office. Salam Street runs through the main shopping area, and Robot Street is the new bypass north of the town.

The old city was small with few buildings robust enough to survive, but a little of old Salalah still remains. The two octagonal gateposts to Al-Hisn Palace, the old Sultan's residence, are a landmark. The palace on the sea shore has been refurbished with a new guest wing, completed in 1981.

Just west of the modern shopping centre some fine traditional houses can be seen in the narrow streets. The two-storey houses are mainly built on rendered limestone blocks. Their

distinctive carved wooden shutters open in four sections.

Although the limestone weathers badly there are preservation orders on these homes. One house right in the centre of town, has been immaculately maintained by Shaikh Awadh Najer. His Majesty who recently made a scaled-down replica of a Dhofari fishing boat which has been donated to the British Maritime Museum at Greenwich.

In the cemetery immediately west of the modern shopping centre is preserved one of the region's oldest mosques, and nearby the Pakistani mosque, has recently been completed, the Sind design is intricate, decorated with patterned tiles.

There are two main shopping areas: the first centres around the intersection of Salam and Mahdah Streets, near the site of the old fort—now demolished—on the main crossroads of the town where stand, what was the country's only set of traffic lights. Most of the banks and supermarkets are here, with the gold souk nearby selling jewellery of intricate Dhofari design, and occasionally silver. The second shopping area is near the sea, directly west of Al-Hisn palace. Many small shops are grouped round the vegetable souk, the fish souk and the general bazaar area.

Local produce

For fresh fruit and vegetables, the souk near Al-Hisn has the best selection of local and imported items. Salalah produce includes papaya, bananas, coconuts, aubergines, courgettes, ladies fingers (okra), spinach, water melon, sweet melon and passion fruit, while apples, oranges and mangoes are frequently imported.

Next to the vegetable souk is the fish souk, open only in the morning. The variety of fish makes this one of the culinary delicacies of the south. Salalah

is famed for its spiny lobster, locally called crayfish, which is available only outside the breeding season from September to April.

Other shell fish include abalone and prawns. Of the many larger fish caught, hamour, kingfish, yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna are among the most popular.

Local catches also include jackfish, red snapper and sardines. Oman's coasts have one of the only unexploited stocks of abalone in the world. They are caught and dried by fishermen who send shells to Dubai for export further east to be carved into mother-of-pearl buttons.

Although Salalah has undergone rapid development in the last 15 years or so, as evidenced by its road programme, airports and port, radio and television station, schools, housing, hospitals and shops—it still retains its mystical beauty and remains one of the last unspoilt corners of the world.

Clustered around Salalah and along the coast are many ancient towns and small charming villages.

Taqa

Taqa, the third largest town in the province, lies on the coast about 30 kilometres from Salalah. Famed for its sardines, its people were traditionally fishermen and farmers who moved down from the mountains during the fishing season and for the sardine harvest.

Coconut groves skirt the shimmering sandy beach and several fine old houses remain, with intricately carved shutters similar to those found in Salalah. In the middle of the town stands an old fort and nearby is an elegant new mosque, built in the 1970's on a much older site. This mosque,

one of three in the area, is built with the classical simplicity typical of the Hadramaut.

Sumhuram

Three kilometres beyond the last turning for Taqa an ungraded track leads off to the left to the legendary city of Sumhuram, and the Queen of Sheba's palace. The track is rough, but negotiable in cars which are not too low-slung.

The ruined city stands on a headland overlooking the long low creek of Khor Rori which stretches two kilometres inland, once the best harbour on the southern coast. The harbour was guarded by the remarkable cliff to the west.

Tradition has it that the city was part of the Himyarite kingdom of Syria, ruled by the Queen of Sheba, although the city is possibly built on an older site.

The city was probably the one referred to by the Greek geographer Ptolemy as Abysopolis, and was a colony of Shwaba, 500 miles to the east.

The buildings were made of rough hewn limestone bricks and were partially excavated in 1952 by an American archaeological team. Entering from the car track you can climb the sides of the steep city wall; pass through the traditional gateway built of close-fitting blocks, and here you will see two ancient carved Himyaritic inscriptions. A little higher up, a superbly constructed well drops about 120 feet.

Wadi Darbat

Almost immediately before the turning of Sumhuram another track leads to the left into the entrance of Wadi Darbat which feeds Khor Rori, and is one of the region's most spectacular wadis. After about five minutes drive the track ends opposite a sheer limestone wall

which, after heavy rains, occasionally turns into a 1000 foot waterfall. The soft limestone has been eroded into delicate patterns. To the left the wooded wadi valley leads through rounded hills into the jebel.

Mirbat

Further along, the coast turns into a sand landscape interspersed with sudden pointed hillocks. Tucked behind one of these outcrops is the imposing town of Mirbat.

Until recent times, Mirbat was recognised as the capital of the region, which was then called Riddan, now called Seek in jebeli. Only lack of water prevented the town from developing further.

Mirbat's wealth also came from frankincense, and for many centuries the town was the beginning of the long caravan route through the Yemen to Syria, and to Iraq. Trade was finally interrupted by World War Two, diverted to Bombay and later to Muscat and the UAE.

The old fort stands square and grey, opposite its sentry tower on a hill nearby. It faces a tight-knit group of tall houses on the opposite side of the long sandy bay. The wali of Mirbat, Shaikh Amri, still governs from the fort, as did his father and grandfather.

Sudh

From Mirbat the road sweeps inland, crossing the dry plateau to the village of Sudh. Here the land is sheltered from the monsoon, the cliffs are steeper, dropping to isolated sandy bays. Sudh huddles against the cliff, its square houses nestling along the shore and in the flat bed of a wadi that breaks the cliff face. It is a fishing village noted for its abalone. Its charming setting and friendly people make it well worth a visit.

Beyond Sudh the cliffs are more sheer, with safe sandy

beaches which make excellent camping spots for a boating weekend.

Round the headland of Ras Hasik lies the little village of Hasik, which is smaller and can only be reached from the sea or air. From here the Kuria Muria islands can occasionally be seen.

This article was prepared by Oman United Agencies, the General Sales Agent for ONTC's Salalah Express, with offices at Ruwi, Muttrah, Mina Al-Fahal, Medinat Qaboos, Seeb Airport and Salalah.

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QATAR

MINISTER ANNOUNCES CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL WORKERS

Doha GULF TIMES in English 5 Nov 86 pp 1, 16

[Article by K.N. Sharma]

[Text] Qatar is to crack down vigorously on illegal foreign workers, the Interior Ministry director Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Nasser bin Jassem al-Thani said yesterday.

Speaking to *Daily Gulf Times*, the director said it was time the country was rid of such workers. All police stations and Interior Ministry departments had been instructed to apprehend them and bring them to justice.

"Earlier, we were lenient and were not acting harshly on this point," he said. "HE the Interior Minister had instructed the Immigration Department to impose certain agreed fines on lawbreakers, instead of taking them to court, which was time-consuming," Sheikh Abdulrahman said, adding: "Now we are thinking of imposing maximum punishment."

An illegal worker is one who does not work with his sponsor, but elsewhere. Under the law anyone guilty of the offence can be fined QR4,500 or jailed or both.

The same penalty has been extended to sponsors and new employers who employ an illegal worker, he said.

Sheikh Abdulrahman said the existing law allowed certain foreign workers to be seconded to other employers in certain situations for a maximum period of six months. But it has to be done according to a certain procedure laid down by law. An application has to be made to the Interior Ministry, together with a release letter from the original sponsor and another letter from the new employer, saying that he needs the services of the worker in question for a specific period.

"We make a file, assess the need and then allow or reject the applica-

tion. Simply taking a release letter from the sponsor and presenting it to the new employer is just not enough. This is illegal", he said.

Sheikh Abdulrahman said that in such a situation all parties — the worker, the original sponsor and the new employer — are liable to punishment, ranging from fine to jail or both.

"We did not have this provision in the existing law. So we have added this to the law," he said.

Another feature of the new amendments decreed by the Emir, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, on Saturday, is the imposition of the same penalty on both buyers and sellers of visas, he said.

"Some people used to register a company and come to us asking for visas. When they got those visas — say 20, 30, or 10 — they take them to someone from the same nationality for which the visas was issued and say, 'Okay, I have got 20 visas, you want to bring your friend or someone, I want QR3,000 for each one.'

"So, this local man — whom I call a corrupt person — proves that everything had been done legally, and when visa had been issued, he, instead of using it for his own company, sells it to others.

"So (we have) this new amendment. It seeks to punish both the buyer and seller with fine or jail. Earlier, we had a problem in dealing with such cases, because courts would say there was no provision in the law concerning this", he said.

Sheikh Abdulrahman said the new amendments did not affect the provisions already contained in the existing law.

Asked whether a foreign sponsor can allow his wife, son or daughter to take up employment in Qatar, Sheikh Abdulrahman said: "He can, but only the wife and daughter, because we want to protect families. But if his son wants to work, and if he has attained the age of 18, he must transfer his sponsorship. And he can do so at the Immigration Department without referring the application to us (the Interior Ministry)".

In reply to a question on the machinery set up to "catch" illegal workers, Sheikh Abdulrahman said: "Earlier we had only the investigation department doing this job. Now, all police stations and Interior Ministry departments have been instructed to do this."

"We are really giving top priority to it. We must enforce the law strictly", he said.

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QATAR

'IMMEDIATE' MEASURES URGED AGAINST RISING GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 12 Nov 86 p 4

[Text]

DOHA—The rising table of groundwater in Qatar has assumed serious proportions and needs urgent and immediate remedial measures, a study by a team of Japanese experts has concluded. The experts told newsmen yesterday the level had been rising at a steady level since 1982 and was between 30 and 50 centimetres.

In Rayyan it had already risen to the surface covering 11.2 hectares and appeared occasionally in another highly affected area, Wadi Mushareb.

The study was undertaken last December at the request of the Qatar government. An interim report has just been submitted with the final comprehensive report expected to be completed by February next year.

The chairman of the advisory committee is Komori Yasukazu and the chief of the study team Ono Masami. There are four members in the study team,

including the engineer, Dr Uemura Yoshiyuki.

Dr Yoshiyuki said there were two main mounds of groundwater in Qatar, one beneath the Madina Khalifa and another south of the Salwa Road. "They are expanding rapidly inland but are comparatively stable towards the sea," he added.

The team set up two test works, one in Rayyan and another in Mushareb, which is the heart of the Doha city. "Results from these tests have convinced us that the best method to get rid of the excess water is lateral drainage," Dr Yoshiyuki said.

In Mushreb the plan is termed the "Wadi type" countermeasure. The groundwater under this plan is collected by the force of gravity. In Rayyan the method is to collect water by lateral drainage and then pump it to disposal areas.

The experts emphasised that the problem was serious enough to have affected foundations of buildings.

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QATAR

ACHIEVEMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL SECTORS REPORTED

Doha GULF TIMES in English 12 Nov 86 p 9

[Text]

THE General Secretariat of the Cabinet has issued a report on the accomplishments realised this year in various sectors in the country on the occasion of the opening of the 15th regular session of the Advisory Council by the Emir of Qatar, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani.

The report reviewed the projects carried out by the state in industry, agriculture, trade and public services.

In the industrial sector, the report said that the Qatar Steel Company (Qasco) achieved an annual record in the production of steel ingots and in the production of construction bars. The figures surpassed those realised since production began in 1977. Annual production at Qasco of sponge iron reached 49336 tonnes, — 123% of design capacity. Production of steel ingots reached 523918 tonnes, — 131% of design capacity and of construction bars 511587 tonnes, — 155% design capacity.

Qasco's production fulfilled local needs of construction bars and almost the entire production surplus has been marketed in members of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (CCASG).

With the achievement of the new record figures, it could be said that Qasco has become one of the world's most successful steel companies in terms of its ability to exploit its production capacity.

Production of the Qatar Fertilisers Company (QAafco) of urea and ammonia last year also showed an increase compared to the previous year. Production of ammonia

reached 639634 tonnes — an increase of 7834 tonnes — while the output of urea reached 743847 tonnes. 98447 tonnes up on the previous year.

Exploitation of design capacity of the company in 1985 surpassed figures of previous years. It reached 108% for ammonia and 113% for urea. However, sales were down because of a price decline on the international market compared to 1984. 1985, was, however, the third best year, following 1984 and 1980, in the company's history as regards net profits.

Referring to ethylene and polyethylene, the report said that an ethane extraction unit helped to overcome the problem of the ethane-rich gas used as a feed stock and production has stabilised allowing the Qatar Petrochemicals Company to take the necessary measures to market the plant's produce and conclude necessary contracts. The company's sales have, therefore, increased substantially, reaching 185114 metric tonnes — 66% of design capacity.

Sales of polyethylene reached 152854 metric tonnes — 109% of design capacity, and sulphur sales were 27525 metric tonnes, 60% of design capacity.

The report said that since the company began production new developments had taken place in several petrochemical markets leading to a substantial drop in prices.

Reviewing the production of Qatar's Cement Company, the report said that the continuation of low demand which began in the end of 1982 had led to reduction in local cement production last year compared to 1984 despite moves by

Qatar Cement Company to increase sales.

In order to deal with international stagnation and to increase competitiveness of its production against imported cement, the company lowered the prices of its sales at three stages. Consequently the price of one bag of Portland Cement dropped to QR9.5 from QR14, while a bag of sulphate-resistant cement went down to QR11 from QR18.

The report said that the Organic Fertiliser Plant achieved a record production last year following the construction of a new unit. Output last year reached 22181 tonnes, — 57% of design capacity. Production of extracted scrap iron reached 2213 tonnes.

Reviewing achievements in the agricultural sector, the report said that a veterinary clinic and a laboratory have been established and servicing cattle in Doha, Gharrafa, Wakhra Garayan Al Batena, and Umm Selal last year.

A centre for agricultural services has been completed in Wasat (Shahaniya) to facilitate the provision of agricultural services for farmers in Shahaniya, Gemeiliya, Rayyan, Dukhan, Wakrah and Garyan Al Batena where there are more than 250 tonnes. A system for irrigation by water splattering was also carried out in the northern plantation area.

Several other projects have been established including a green house experimental project and a survey of underground water.

Drilling of two deep water wells has started and the first two stages of the topographic survey of farms and arable lands as well a project for fish-farming are already under way.

On the production of state farms, the report said that the surface of land cultivated with clover and barley in the sheep farm in Abu Samra reached 471 donums while artificial and natural grazing areas reached 309 donums. The number of sheep in the same farm reached 8609 last year — an increase of 44%.

The experimental farm in Rawdat Al Faras distributed about 1.5mn vegetable plants, 77,000 fruit plants and 300,000 wind-proof plants last year.

Experiments on several other plants have been made in the same farm and a project for the use of saline water in irrigation has been carried out.

The report also referred to continuous programmes for extending veterinary services and for protection of livestock.

It said that an Agricultural Services Centre will be opened in Shahaniya shortly. An agricultural Laboratory will also be opened shortly.

The report said that the number of students in Qatar last year reached 52,050, showing an increase of 26 (5.45%) students against 1984. The number of female students reached 25,525 — an increase of 49.03%.

The number of graduates of secondary schools and universities last year reached 2,870, including 1,781 Qataris. The number of students last year at Qatar University was 4,620 including 2,921 females. Students sent on scholarships abroad last year totalled 1,210, the report said.

There were 6,997 students in afternoon classes last year in 68 centres and schools in Qatar, while the number of students in Arab and Foreign private schools in the country reached 15,897 in 66 schools under the supervision of the Education Ministry.

The report said that the Education Ministry employed 6,116 people — an increase of 380 employees.

In the vocational training sector, the report said that 311 trainees in various specialisations graduated last year. The present number of trainees stands by 449.

Dealing with the university education, the report said the number of students enrolled at Qatar University for the academic years 1985-1986 reached 5,057 (male and female students) of 73.38% are Qatari students.

About 4,928 graduates of Qatar University are now holding positions in all walks of life both in Qatar and abroad the report noted. The university teaching staff includes 26 Qataris with Doctorate Degrees, 44 assistant professors with Master Degrees and 80 Qatari instructors.

The future activities of the university's faculties include a promotion programme for the teacher's qualification at the faculty of Education, the launching of Higher Studies at the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty. It was already planned to launch a programme for granting a degree in Rays and Medical Physics and launching a similar Bachelor-level programme for specialisation in the calculation and nursing sciences at the Faculty of Sciences along with other studies for the rehabilitation of the national cadres in the research field at the

Education Research Centre, the report said.

In the social sector, two new consumer co-operatives were opened in Doha and Madinat al-Shamal last year. Three other ones are planned for construction in various districts of the capital while four other ones are under consideration, the report said.

The report noted that a total of 612 popular, low-cost houses were distributed last year. 367 other houses are currently under construction and will be ready soon.

Social Rehabilitation and Training Centres in Doha and Al-Khor concluded two training courses in which 38 (female) trainees and 12 (female) trainees took part. The Doha Rehabilitation Centre is currently offering training and rehabilitation for 86 trainees. Al-Khor Centre has 20 trainees and Al-Shamal Centre 30 trainees, the report noted.

The report noted further that a total of 7,217 cases benefitted from the Social Security programme last year.

/13046

CSO: 4400/61

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

TURKEY TO OPEN CONSULATE IN DUBAYY

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 12 Nov 86 p 3

[Text]

TURKEY is to open its consulate in Dubai shortly. It will also open a commercial affairs section at the embassy in Abu Dhabi.

Turkish ambassador Tugay Ulucevik, who met Saeed Ahmed Al Otaiba, President of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday, said that the mission was being expanded in view of increasing trade relations between Turkey and the UAE.

The Turkish government is also studying a plan to offer special investment facilities to the AGCC states in Turkey.

Mr Otaiba said that the two countries had come closer to each other as a result of recent contacts between their leaders. The ties in trade, industry, tourism and real estate investments have been strengthened due to their efforts.

The chamber chief called for

exchanges of more trade delegations between the two countries. The Turkish envoy has asked the Abu Dhabi Chamber to send a trade mission to Turkey to survey the new investment by-laws and development projects. Both sides have agreed to study joint projects.

The ambassador said that the commercial counsellor section to be opened at the embassy would be a significant development in increasing bilateral trade both in the public and the private sector.

Turkey's exports to the UAE received a great boost in the last couple of years due to an increase in the UAE import of livestock and meat from Turkey. It may be noted that the private sector from the AGCC states is increasingly involved in buying real estate in Turkey. Tourism from the AGCC has also increased appreciably in the last couple of years.

/13046
CSO: 4400/62

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

RAINWATER CONSERVATION PLAN TO BE DRAWN UP

Dubayy KHALEEF TIMES in English 17 Nov 86 p 3

[Text]

THE wet season, now imminent, has brought a reminder that parts of Dubai suffer inundation every time it rains. But arrangements are now being made to solve the problem throughout Dubai city once and for all.

A rainwater control plan is to be drawn up by a special committee of the municipality, headed by the Deputy Director of Public Health, Hassan Mahboob. It includes officials of the health, drainage, horticulture and roads sections.

Giving details of the project to Khaleef Times yesterday, Essa Al Maidoor, engineer at the drainage section, said three different means—surface drainage, tankers and portable pumps—have so far been used to overcome the problem.

He said the problem had almost been solved on Deira side, including low-lying Hamriya and Hor Al Anz areas, with the introduction of a surface drainage system. Under this method, rainwater which collects in shallows and gullies is pumped into a station through a network of pipes. From there the water is pumped into the sea or creek depending on which is near. The Hor Al Anz pumping station pumps out water to the sea near the Hamriya market while all others pump into the creek.

Mr Maidoor said the rainwater problem in Deira was considerably eased by the existence of paved roads which were provided with gullies. This sort of drainage system covers the fish market, Sabkha area, Nasser Square, Maktoum Hospital region and adjoining areas.

But in the areas behind Naif Road and Hyatt Regency and even the Corniche there is no proper pumping station. A pipe network collects rainwater.

Hor Al Anz and Hamriya have for long been the two worst affected areas where rainwater collects in the shallows causing numerous problems to residents. With the introduction of the stormwater network and its pumping stations side by side with a sewerage network and its pumping stations, this problem has permanently been solved.

Now under the new plan similar arrangements are to be made in Bur Dubai, Karama, Satwa, Ghusais and other localities. At present, these localities have temporary arrangements.

The municipality, Mr Maidoor pointed out, was giving priority to keeping main roads free of inundation. This does not, however, mean that the residential localities will be neglected.

Measures will be taken to eliminate the problems as quickly as possible in keeping with the urgency and the demand of the situation.

He urged the public to cooperate with the authorities. The municipality was fully aware of the needs of owners and residents of private buildings. Obviously, most owners in the low-lying areas could not solve this problem without the help of the municipality. Therefore, steps are being taken to attend to their requests.

Under the new plan, a surface drainage system is to be introduced in Karama next because of the severity of the problem in that locality. The situation differs from place to place. It is not difficult in places such as Mankhoul, Diyafah and even Jumeirah right

up to Jebel Ali as the rainwater seeps through soft soil there to the sea. But in the case of Karama, Satwa, Ghusais and Rashidiya the underground water table is not very deep. The soil is comparatively thick. This results in rainwater accumulating for considerably longer periods.

Mr Maidoor said: 'As long as there is rain there will be flooding problems. One cannot quarrel with nature. People should cooperate with the authorities during the rainy season. Road users should drive slowly and carefully during and immediately after the first rain to avoid accidents. The roads become safer for driving once it rains heavily and the slipperiness is washed away completely.'

There is an officer in charge of each area. All resources of the municipality are being pooled to meet the wet weather problems.

/13046
CSO: 4400/62

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

CONFERENCE ON PETROLEUM RESEARCH CENTER

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Nov 86 p 4

[Text]

DOHA—A round-table conference to study a proposal for the setting up of a Gulf centre for industrial research and marketing of Arab Gulf petrochemical products opened at the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (Goic) in Doha yesterday.

The conference will focus discussion on a working paper prepared by the Goic on the establishment of the specialised centre. It will supervise various programmes to promote consumption of finished petrochemical products to substitute imports of primary products and to train national technicians in research and promotion.

The conference is being attended by representatives from Qatar Petrochemical Company, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Bahrain Gulf Company for Petrochemical Industry, Saudi Basic Industries Company, Kuwait Petrochemicals Company, Gulf Investment Corporation and the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

The secretary-general of the Goic, Dr Abdullah Hamad Al Moajil, said yesterday that the conference would discuss a new training programme by Goic this year to promote various studies.

He said in his opening address that authorities should be contacted to provide some sort of support in the form of subsidies and incentives for the petrochemical industry

/13046
CSO: 4400/62

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

AL-'ATTAS DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST IN INTERVIEW

AU181514 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 4 Nov 86 pp 1, 3

[Interview given by Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to E. Buchvarov: "Along the Path of the Revolution"--in Aden; date not given; first two paragraphs added by Buchvarov]

[Excerpts] The conversation with Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas took place in his residence in Aden. In the room, tastefully furnished, but without any luxuries, a man feels predisposed to work and to engage in relaxed conversations.

The president himself provides the tone for this. In this man everything is measured--both his gestures and his thought. A direct participant in the struggles of his people, an engineer by education, and a diplomat and party leader by "profession," in his presence even the most trifling matter assumes its true proportions and value. When you talk with him you are left with the feeling that he is able to value the man he is talking to, without wasting the time in which at present so much has to be done. Our conversation proceeded as follows:

[Buchvarov] We have seen that your country is living and toiling. Could you tell us about the road that has been traversed, about what has been achieved and what is expected in the future?

[Al-'Attas] From the first day of our national independence our people inherited economic, cultural, and social backwardness on an immense scale. Following 22 June 1969 the people put great efforts into drawing up the first plan for economic and social development (of 1971). In this plan special attention was paid to building the economic foundations of the country, in which the social and cooperative sector play crucial roles. [passage omitted in which Al-'Attas summarizes the PDRY's history and significant socioeconomic progress up to the present]

[Buchvarov] Recently you made a tour of certain countries in the Arabian peninsula, during which you had interesting meetings and conversations. How would you summarize your impressions; what in your view is the political climate in this part of the world?

[Al-'Attas] The situation in the Middle East is at present characterized by an intensification of the U.S. intervention, the aim of which is to subject the Arab peoples and bring them into opposition with the socialist countries, and particularly with the USSR. The threat to international peace has increased with the entry of Israel into a strategic alliance with the United States and its active participation in the "Star Wars" program, which is a threat to peace and to the peoples of the entire planet. The U.S. policy continues to oppose peace in Europe. The United States refuses to take account of logic and the unanimity of international opinion on the Arab-Israeli issue, or of the rights of the Arab people of Palestine, or of the sympathy which the peoples feel toward the Palestinians. This is a failure to respect the right of self-determination and the right to an independent state on Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO--the sole legitimate representative of the people.

We can discover nothing new in the U.S. attitude to peace in the region. Even now the United States opposes the convening of an international forum with the participation of all interested parties and of Palestine as an equal member. It is encouraging Israel to continue its aggressive policy in the land of the Arab states, in order to compel them to enter into separatist [ednostranni] agreements with them, as occurred in the case of Egypt at Camp David. Past years have proven the bankruptcy of the imperialist Zionist aspirations, both at Camp David and in other attempts as well, in pursuit of the same goal. However, they have failed to eliminate the figure representing the Palestinian people from the equation of peace in the Middle East.

We in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen consider that the opposition to imperialism and Zionism demands the greatest degree of unity of the Arab national liberation movement, a unification of the efforts of the progressive organizations, and a strengthening of the ties between the Arab peoples and the socialist countries, led by the friendly Soviet Union.

We must make it absolutely clear that a just peace in the Middle East is impossible without the withdrawal of the Zionists from the Arab countries and without the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine. Our country's position is also clear with regard to the war between Iran and Iraq: It must be halted and the improvement of the relations between the two sides must be achieved by peaceful means. It is evident that the continuation of this war is of benefit only to the Zionist forces; it threatens the security in the region and increases the likelihood of a military invasion by the U.S. imperialists.

[Buchvarov] It has been proven more than once that the destabilization of the situation in the Middle East is a reflection of the entire international atmosphere in this region and throughout the world. Here comparisons are continually being drawn between the standpoints of the USSR and the United States on the issues of peace. How do you assess the Soviet proposals for eliminating this hotbed of war?

[Al-'Attas] The friendly Soviet Union remains the state which holds a constant, firm position with regard to peace in the Middle East. It supports the struggle of the Arab peoples and their resistance against the Israeli occupation, during the four wars started by Israel. During recent years alone the Soviet Union has made a number of proposals for settling the crisis, for example, the proposal for convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all interested parties, including, of course, the PLO. [passage omitted approving Soviet Union's peace efforts in Middle East]

[Buchvarov] What is your viewpoint on Yemeni-Bulgarian relations?

[Al-'Attas] Yemeni-Bulgarian relations have been built upon the principles of friendship and proletarian internationalism, and are of benefit to our two friendly peoples. They are one of the means which help our national democratic system to consolidate its position in the socialist community.

We can state with pride that there is no field in which we do not sense the aid of the People's Republic of Bulgaria--this is an everyday proof of our fraternal mutual relations based on the Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Aid between our two countries. We can assert with confidence that these relations are a source of pride for our party, people, and state. Through OTECHESTVEN FRONT we would like to convey our comradely greetings to our Bulgarian friends, and to testify to them our high evaluation of these friendly relations, which will consolidate the achievements of the national democratic revolution on the path toward its socialist horizons. [passage omitted in which Al-'Attas expresses support and approval of Bulgaria's peace-loving policy in the Balkans]

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CSO: 4400/59

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

PDRY SETS HEARING DATE--Aden, 19 Nov (WAKH)--A date was set in Aden tonight for the preliminary hearing of the case of those accused of being involved in the 13 January incidents. Dr Mustafa 'Abd al-Khaliq, chief of the supreme court in the PDRY, said that Saturday, 22 November, has been set as the date for the hearing when the case for the defense will be heard in accordance with the country's criminal procedure law. In a statement to the newspaper 14 UKTUBAR to be published tomorrow, Thursday, he added that he will make a decision on the trial date once the parties' requests have been heard and after the pertinent data and evidence are compiled. He explained that more than 100 defendants will be on trial, pointing out that, in accordance with the law, a large group of lawyers will be defending them. Aden radio said the files pertaining to the case contain a great many documents and a great deal of data to be submitted to the court. It is noteworthy that former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is among those to be tried in absentia. [Text] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Nov 86 JN] /9738

ADEN REPORTS AL-'ATTAS ARRIVAL IN SYRIA--Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council arrived in Damascus this afternoon at the head of a high-ranking delegation which will pay a short visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He and his delegation were met at the airport by Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice president, and several other senior Syrian officials. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Nov 86 EA] /9738

CSO: 4400/59

AFGHANISTAN

MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 7 Sep 86 pp 1-2

[Text]

With the implementation of the first five year socio-economic plan after the revolution the area of activity of mechanised agricultural stations will be expanded from 73,000 hectares to 504,000 hectares with an envisaged income of 521 million Afghanis.

For implementing the plan and mechanising agriculture in the country the agricultural mechanised stations concluded a contract with friendly Soviet Union on the purchase of technical equipment and agricultural machinery at a cost of over one million dollars. The machinery will be received by the end of the current year and distributed to peasants.

Also besides the addition of 325 tractors and 122 combines to the machines working in the areas the establishment of two new mechanised agricultural stations are also proposed in Jalalabad and Kunduz. Similarly, the

mechanised stations in Jauzjan, Nangarhar and Herat provinces at a total cost of 65 million Afs. will also be completed and commissioned before the end of HS 1369.

To provide further facility to the peasants and augment the level of agricultural products, the mechanised stations are planning to set up agricultural services complex. And thus the stations besides offering agricultural machines, will also provide fertilizers, improved seeds and pesticides.

For the speedy growth of agriculture in the country the stations are planning to adopt the system of leasing of agricultural machines to the peasants on easy terms.

The stations have brought under its activity an area of over 29,000 hectares in the first four months of the current year, and performing 25,445 hours work earned an amount of 10,885,000 Afghanis. This shows the fulfilment of the plan 100 percent in the above period.

At present the stations have got 211 tractors and 78 combines working in Kabul, Balkh, Jauzjan, Baghlan and Herat prov-

inces. Also the branches of the stations are in Kunduz, Samangan, Ghazni, Farah, Nimroz and Nangarhar provinces.

The stations and branches put at the service of the peasants the machineries like tractors, combines, threshers, etc. at a low rate.

To encourage the growth of agriculture in the country and to help the peasants the state has borne a subsidy of Afs 550 against every hour work of a tractor and Afs 800 against per hour work of a combine. In the first four months of the current year the state paid a subsidy of Afs 14 million in this regard.

The stations also have well-equipped workshops, which besides repairing the machines belonging to the stations repair the agricultural machines of state farms, agricultural cooperatives and individual peasants.

Engineer Naim, president of the agricultural mechanised stations, said: "To train technicians and workers, we established technical courses in HS

1360. So far 750 persons have graduated from these courses and are working with us in the capital and the provinces.

The agricultural mechanised stations were established in HS 1359 (1980) in the framework of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms by making use of 46 million dollars credit of friendly Soviet Union. Its goal is to elevate the quality and quantity of agricultural products and to mechanise agriculture.

He added that in the past five years these stations have accomplished valuable activities for the growth of agriculture in the country. For example, the extent of their field activities has increased from 21,000 hectares to 73,000 hectares.

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CSO: 4600/57

INDIA

REPORTAGE PREPARATORY TO GORBACHEV VISIT

Officials To Visit Moscow

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Oct 86 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 28.

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, who is now visiting several West European capitals along with some other non aligned Foreign Ministers to press for stricter sanctions against South Africa, will be stopping over in Moscow for two or three days on his way back to Delhi.

He is due to meet the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, and also call on the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, during his stay there.

Venkateswaran going: The Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, who was in Moscow last month for preparatory talks, is flying to Moscow on Friday to join the Foreign Minister for talks with the Soviet leaders on various aspects of Indo-Soviet relations. The decision to send Mr. Venkateswaran at short notice was taken by the Prime Minister late tonight.

Apart from establishing personal contacts with top personalities in the Soviet Government, Mr. Tiwari will have discussions on both bilateral and international issues which are expected to figure during Mr. Gorbachev's talks in Delhi.

Rajiv sending message: The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, felt that though a lot of preparatory work had already been done on matters relating to increased economic cooperation it would be useful if Mr. Tiwari stopped over in Moscow and met his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Shevardnadze, for follow up discussions on political issues of mutual interest. He is sending a personal message to Mr. Gorbachev through Mr. Tiwari giving his impressions on the current international developments, besides indicating that India is attaching considerable importance to his visit.

A similar visit to Moscow was paid by the previous External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. Shiv Shanker, soon after he assumed charge. He also met Mr. Gorbachev after his official talks with Mr. Shevardnadze and returned with the

reassuring feeling that the Soviet Union was ready to take all possible steps to consolidate and expand Indo-Soviet relations.

But strangely enough, Mr. Shevardnadze has not been able to visit India ever since he was appointed Soviet Foreign Minister early last year, because of his other preoccupations. He has, however, kept in close touch with Indian events and been meeting Indian Foreign Ministers in Moscow and at the United Nations.

Asian security plan: The Soviet Government is reported to be very keen on enlisting Indian support to the new Gorbachev Plan for Asian security which he put forward in his famous speech at Vladivostok in July last. Apart from making some friendly gestures to China by renouncing the Soviet claims to the disputed islands in the Amur and Ussuri river basins and offering to withdraw the bulk of Soviet troops stationed in Mongolia, he mooted a wider concept of Asian security with the participation of all the principal countries including the Soviet Union, China, Japan and the United States belonging to the Asia-Pacific region.

The Soviet leader proposed an Asian security conference, in what he called the "mould of the Helsinki conference" attended by all the countries "gravitating" towards the Pacific Ocean. He is expected to raise this issue during his talks with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and press for Indian support.

This will be one of the issues that is expected to be discussed during Mr. Tiwari's talks with Mr. Shevardnadze and possibly Mr. Gorbachev himself to make the Indian position known in advance. Though India has welcomed the idea of a wider security pact embracing all the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, it feels that a lot of spadework remains to be done to give a concrete shape to this proposition.

N-power unit: The Soviet leaders might also refer to their offer to set up a nuclear power plant in India with a financial package cover

both in the rouble and rupee costs of the project. Though the Indian stand had been explained during the recent preparatory talks in Delhi, the Soviet Government wants India to accept the offer at least in principle, without waiting for settlement of safeguards and technical details which will take time.

There are many other issues of a political nature, like Kampuchea and Afghanistan, on which both sides are keen on consultations. The intention is to identify in advance the more important subjects that are going to be discussed by the two leaders and prepare the ground for highlighting the areas of accord in the declarations and joint communiques to be issued at the conclusion of Mr. Gorbachev's visit.

Tiwari Meeting With Gorbachev

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Nov 86 p 9

[Text]

MOSCOW, November 4 (PTI).

THE Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachov, has affirmed that for the Soviet Union maintenance of friendly relations with India was a question of principle.

These relations were of "immense independent value, not subject to fluctuations or circumstantial considerations." "The Soviet leadership would not take a single step in its international policy that could damage India's real interests," he told the external affairs minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, yesterday during talks at the Kremlin.

Mr. Gorbachov apparently responded to a reference by Mr. Tiwari to the implications for India of Soviet efforts to improve its relations with third countries like China.

He said Soviet friendship with India was not a matter of expediency, but rooted in the hearts and minds of the Soviet people. "There are no differences in our bilateral relations."

He quoted the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, that these relations could be compared to "a tree with deep roots and expansive grounds" and added: "We have to further strengthen and broaden these relations."

"Our relations with India are significant not only for our two countries but also to the whole world which takes notice of and values these," he said.

Mr. Gorbachov said he was looking forward to his talks with Mr. Gandhi when he visits India later this month, "We are making full preparations for it," he added, hoping his visit will lead to further strengthening of political, economic, cultural, scientific and technical relations.

It will be the communist party general secretary's first trip to Asia since he took office in March last year.

Mr. Tiwari conveyed to him the greetings of the Prime Minister and

said: "Your visit is of historic importance for strengthening peace and for stability throughout our bilateral relations."

FOUR DOCUMENTS

He recounted how in his discussions with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, on Saturday agreement was reached on the principles that would govern the 'four documents' that will be signed in New Delhi during Mr. Gorbachov's visit.

Mr. Gorbachov requested that his greetings be conveyed to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. The Soviet leader will be accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Raisa Gorbachov, during the first state visit in six years to India by the Soviet Union's top leader.

Tass said Mr. Tiwari briefed Mr. Gorbachov on the activities of the non-aligned movement.

The Soviet leader is understood to have shown keen interest in a proposal made Mr. Tiwari for easing difficulties created by annual balancing of Indo-Soviet trade.

Mr. Tiwari during their two-hour meeting in the Kremlin, suggested that the balancing exercise should cover a longer 'time-horizon.'

OTHERS PRESENT

UNI adds: Mr. Tiwari was assisted by the Indian ambassador, Mr. T. N. Kaul, the foreign secretary, Mr. A. Venkateswaran, and Mr. Gopi Aurora, additional secretary in the Prime Minister's secretariat.

A considerable part of the talks was concerned with regional problems in India's neighbourhood, it is learnt.

Providing Pakistan with AWACS and allowed the US to use its air space for reconnaissance missions have added an absolutely new element in the region, at which both India and the Soviet Union are now showing their concern.

Preparatory Work Successful

Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Oct 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 30.

The First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Mr. Yuli Vorontsov, who arrived in Delhi yesterday with a personal message from the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, met the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi today after exhaustive discussions with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, on all aspects of Mr. Gorbachev's visit to which the Soviet Union is attaching considerable importance.

It is quite significant that the Soviet Government considered it necessary to send Mr. Vorontsov at short notice to Delhi presumably to clear some of the issues with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi himself before the new External Affairs Minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, arrives in Moscow from Bonn on Saturday, (November 1), for talks with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, and Mr. Gorbachev himself on his forthcoming visit to Delhi.

It is seldom if ever that so much preparatory work has been done to ensure the success of a State visit by the head of a friendly country, whether it is the Soviet Union or the U.S. let alone others of lesser importance. The Soviet Government is making every possible effort to make Mr. Gorbachev's visit a landmark in the development of Indo-Soviet relations.

After the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr. K. F. Katushev and Mr. U. F. Mordinov, came to discuss rouble credits and project assistance, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Mikhail Kapitsa arrived for political exchanges on issues like China, Kampuchea, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Now Mr. Vorontsov, who ranks next to Mr. Shevardnadze, has been sent for talks with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi himself on both political and economic subjects which are going to figure prominently during Mr. Gorbachev's visit.

As one who served as Soviet Ambassador, in Delhi for five years, after spending nearly 18 years in New York and Washington, Mr. Vorontsov is rated second only to Mr. Anatoly Dobrynin, a legendary figure in Soviet diplomatic service, in his vast experience. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Venkateswaran, who went to

Moscow only recently for preparatory talks, will be flying with Mr. Vorontsov by the same Aeroflot flight tomorrow to assist Mr. Tiwari in his talks with the Soviet leaders on the Gorbachev visit.

Another visit: What is even more significant is that Mr. Vorontsov will be paying another trip to India about the middle of November to give final touches to the draft political declaration and the joint communique on economic relations.

Mr. Gorbachev will be accompanied by several ministers and some senior party functionaries, including Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Dobrynin, on his visit. He intends to spend all the four days in Delhi itself having intensive discussions with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his colleagues on both international and bilateral issues.

New credit offer: The Soviet Union is prepared to offer India a new credit of two billion roubles, if it can be utilised for major projects like a nuclear power plant and the proposed Tehri hydro-electric plant. The nuclear power plant offer is stalled by both technical objections and political reservations over the comprehensive safeguards which Moscow wants India to settle directly with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), while in the case of the Tehri project some environmental issues have been raised by those dealing with the subject in Delhi.

The Prime Minister spent almost four-and-a-half hours yesterday discussing all these matters with the ministers concerned and senior officials in an effort to finalise the Indian position on all these issues.

He wanted them to give him cogent reasons for not accepting any particular Soviet offer, whether it is in relation to the nuclear power plant or some other project, so that he could explain the position in each case to Mr. Gorbachev during his talks with him.

The Soviet leader is due to arrive in Delhi on November 25 and spend four days in the capital mostly in discussion with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, while parallel talks will be held with other senior ministers by members of his delegation. He will also be addressing members of both Houses of Parliament.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1194

INDIA

ANALYST ON DEFENSE TEAM'S MISSION TO MOSCOW

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Nov 86 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31.

A high-power Indian defence delegation, headed by the Minister of State, Mr. Arun Singh, is leaving for Moscow tomorrow for talks on increased defence assistance, which will come up for discussion during the forthcoming visit of the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, as an integral part of the ongoing Indo-Soviet politico-economic cooperation.

Apart from the Defence Secretary, Mr. S. K. Bhatnagar, the Scientific Adviser, Dr. V. S. Arunachalam, and the Joint Secretary, Mr. Ashim Chatterjee, the delegation will include the Vice-Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force, Lt. General H. K. Hazari, Vice-Admiral J. G. Nadkarni and Air Marshal S. Raghavendran.

Tiwari's talks in Moscow: The decision to send this delegation to Moscow at this time was taken at short notice, after the talks that the First Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Yuli Vorontsov, has had in Delhi. It is significant that this defence team arrives in the Soviet capital the same day that the External Affairs Minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, reaches there.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, and the Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Secretariat, Mr. G. K. Arora, reached Moscow today to assist Mr. Tiwari in his talks with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, and Mr. Gorbachev himself on both political and economic issues.

The Soviet Union quite understandably is concerned about the latest Indian moves to establish a high technology transfer relationship with the U.S. in the defence sphere. In spite of the fact that India is dependent on it for almost 75 per cent of sophisticated weapon systems, the Soviet Union is nonetheless not too happy over the attempts to diversify its sources.

Current Soviet policy: It was bad enough, from Moscow's point of view, that India had turned to Britain, France and Sweden in recent years for offsetting its excessive dependence on the Soviet Union, but worse still that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's Government should be responding to the U.S. overtures for an opening in this critical field under the guise of technological cooperation.

The current Soviet policy which is aimed at both consolidating and extending its politico-economic relationship with India seeks to eliminate, if possible, this growing distortion in India's defence relations, or at least keep down to the minimum the country's new, defence-related technological links with the United States.

No new deals: The defence delegation is not going to Moscow to negotiate any new deals, much less play the American card deftly to secure better terms from the Soviet Union. The primary purpose of its visit is to

discuss with Soviet experts the Indian perceptions of its security environment and spell out its own strategic concepts in the context of the weaponry the country has been acquiring for its Army, Navy and Air Force.

The broad parameters of defence cooperation are approved at the political level, but the details are left to be settled between the Defence Ministers of the two countries, leaving the financial packages to be worked out by the two governments outside the trade plans. And in the present case the talks are intended to spell out the scope for increased defence cooperation so that the two sides can broach the subject with fuller knowledge during Mr. Gorbachev's visit.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1197

INDIA

GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE SUPER COMPUTER FROM U.S. FIRM

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Oct 86 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 28.

The Government of India, after months of negotiations and evaluations of different options available, has finally issued a letter of intent (LI) for the procurement of the American super computer, Cray-XMP — the fastest computing system available in the world market today.

After discussions stretched over two days at the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the letter was handed over to Mr. Michael East, representative of Cray Research Inc. The prolonged discussions were mainly to identify the correct and optimal configuration of the system best suited for the purpose of monsoon research.

Mr. East belongs to the British subsidiary unit of the firm, Cray Research (U.K.) Ltd., which is the wing that looks after the Company's interests in the U.K., Asia and the West Asia. The letter will now be forwarded by the British wing to the parent company in the U.S., which will submit it to the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) for granting the validated export licence (VEL).

Pentagon review. The licensing procedure, according to the U.S. Export Administration regulations, will take 30 days, or multiples thereof, with a maximum limit of 240 days which includes a Pentagon and COCOM (Committee for Multilateral Controls among NATO countries minus Iceland and Spain plus Japan) review. This is the period in which the U.S. Government will seek clarifications, if any regarding end-use etc. from the Indian Government. With the issue of the LI, however, the ball now rests in the U.S. court.

"I had thought I may have to come again," said Mr. East who is making his ninth trip to India pursuing the Cray deal. According to him, the Indian authorities have moved very fast in evaluating the system and issuing the letter of intent once the Government had fairly clear indications on the willingness of the U.S. Government to allow the export of supercomputer. Mr.

East feels that now it was only a matter of procedural time because the DOC has already given encouraging indications to the company also.

As regards the end-use certification and the regime of safeguards and the mechanics of verification, Mr. East said these had been agreed upon between the Governments in pursuant of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Cray company itself, which according to him would be only too happy to sell more computers to India, had no part to play in these aspects of the deal.

Once the VEL is granted, the company will order production of the system specific to Indian requirements and will be shipped from the U.S. in a matter of months, Mr. East hopes. Outside the COCOM group of countries (where there are now as many as 150 Cray systems in operation), this will be the third Cray machine to be installed. There are two Cray-XMPs in Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi for seismic studies in petroleum explorations.

The system that is being ordered, from the range of 11 configurations in the Cray-XMP family, is Cray/XMP/24. It will have two central processing units (CPUs) with four megawords of shared core memory. Each word here is in 64-bit format and, therefore, this corresponds to 32 megabytes of memory.

The Indian experts are yet to decide on the exact graphics and other software requirements for medium range weather forecasting (8-10 days' predictions) for which, according to Mr. East, the system is best suited.

Cray Research Inc. has a scientific library of software which comes free with a Cray machine. In addition a facility is provided for access to 500 public domain or third party software. The languages that run on Cray are Fortran, Pascal and C and attempts are under way to implement ADA, Prolog and Lisp. The Lisp compiler has in fact been developed by Dr. Raj Reddy of Carnegie-Mellon University.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1194

INDIA

BRIEFS

ELECTRONICS PANEL RECONSTITUTED--New Delhi, November 8 (UNI): The electronics commission has been reconstituted with Mr. P.S. Deodhar as chairman. A well known expert in electronics, Mr. Deodhar has been chairman of the electronics trade and technology development corporation (ET and T) so far. Mr. S.R. Vijayakar, secretary, department of electronics, will be the vice-chairman of the commission. Other members are Mr. S. Venkitaramanan, finance secretary; Dr. V.S. Arunachalam, scientific adviser to the defence minister, Mr. D.K. Sangal, secretary, department of telecommunications; Mr. P.R. Latey, secretary, department of technical development; Mr. U.D.N. Rao, director, telecommunications research centre; Dr. G.N. Acharya, director, Central electronics engineering research institute (CEERI); Prof. A.B. Bhattacharya, director, centre for applied research in electronics (CARE); and Prof. H.N. Mahabala, department of computer science and engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Nov 86 p 1] /13046

MUSLIM UNITY FRONT--Pune, October 24: Reformist Muslim organisations and groups from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Lucknow and Indore, have formed a national organisation, the All-India Muslim Mission, to provide a forum for all those seeking changes in a peaceful and democratic manner. This new platform, created at the initiative of the Muslim Satyashodhak Mandal (MSM) in Maharashtra, will exchange viewpoints and provide guidelines to the activists on various social, economic and educational problems faced by the community. It would strive to ease communal tensions and to achieve national integration. The convenors of the mission, Mr. Sayyad Bhai and Mr. Abdul Alim Khan, told newsmen today that the mission would shortly set up a shelter home for "talaq pidits" (divorcees) at Karjat in Raigad district of Maharashtra. A Muslim resident of the town has donated two hectares of land for the purpose. On this land, another building will be constructed to provide temporary shelter to those dishoused in communal riots. The first national-level conference of the mission will be held in Bombay by the end of December, and progressive leaders and social groups are expected to participate in it. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Oct 86 p 16] /13046

ROCKET ENGINE TESTED--New Delhi, Oct. 31 (PTI): A high-thrust rocket engine which can lift heavy payloads up to an altitude of 600 km has been successfully tested by scientists of the Defence Research and Development Laboratory,

Hyderabad. The rocket engine, which makes use of indigenous liquid fuel, generates 30 tonnes of thrust power, Dr V.S. Arunachalam, defence science adviser, said here today. Dr Arunachalam said the thrust chamber of the engine had been fabricated with stainless steel tubes. The propellants were fed with the help of indigenously-developed high-performance turbo-pumps, he added. Referring to combat vehicles being developed in the country, Arunachalam said prototypes of the Main Battle Tank were undergoing critical evaluation. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 1 Nov 86 p 6] /13046

ENVOY TO SOUTHERN AFRICA--New Delhi, Oct. 31.--Mr N. Krishnan, who retired today from the Foreign Service, is being appointed special envoy of the Prime Minister on southern Africa, it is reliably learnt, reports PTI. Mr Krishnan was until now India's permanent representative to the United Nations. He will be in-charge of the Africa Fund set up at the Harare non-aligned summit to assist frontline States affected by trade and economic blockade imposed by the racist Pretoria regime. India is chairman of the fund. As special envoy, Mr Krishnan will travel to southern Africa in connexion with the work of the fund. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Nov 86 p 1] /13046

ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY COMMISSION--New Delhi, Oct. 30. The Government of India announced today, through a gazette notification, the appointment of a commission on economic efficiency, productivity and exports. The commission which will be initially for a period of two years will be headed by Mr. L.K. Jha and it will function under the Cabinet Secretariat for administrative purposes. The announcement did not disclose the names of the members of the commission, since the list has yet to be finalised by the Government. The commission will submit its reports to the Prime Minister, but its functions will be of an advisory nature, more or less identical to what Mr. Jha has been doing all these years, first as chairman of the commission on economic administrative reforms and later as adviser to the Prime Minister on the same subject. The commission will suggest measures for improving capacity utilisation, efficiency and productivity in industry, both in the public and private sectors, besides analysing the existing policies in the global perspective and suggesting measures for stepping up exports and improving the balance of payments position. It has also been empowered to examine and report on any related issues referred to it from time to time by the Government. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Oct 86 p 9] /13046

SECOND PAKISTAN RAIL LINK--Jodhpur. The second rail link between India and Pakistan through the Rajasthan border is likely to commence by December this year, the Divisional Regional Manager, Northern Railway, Mr. Rajendra Bhansali, has said. Mr. Bhansali told reporters that the Munabao railway station in Barmer district of Rajasthan, which would become the centre of the link between the two countries on the Indian side, had been remodelled with all modern facilities, including drinking water, electricity, a platform and retiring rooms.--PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Oct 86 p 5] /13046

SATISFACTION WITH VIZAG--Visakhapatnam, Oct. 22. Mr. Kastushev, Chairman of the USSR State Committee on Foreign Economic Relations, has expressed

isfaction at the progress of work in Visakhapatnam Steel Project (VSP) and that it would be completed by 1988. A 14-member delegation headed by Kastushev visited the Visakhapatnam Steel Project under construction the Russian technical collaboration yesterday and held discussions with the Chairman and Managing Director of the Project, Mr. T.R. Ahuja and other senior officials. Mr. Kastushev told newsmen that VSP was economically more viable than other steel projects. With sophisticated technology, VSP was as good as the projects in the USSR. He said the purpose of his visit was to know how the construction work at the project was progressing. He expressed satisfaction at the design and construction capability of Indian engineers. On arrival at Vizag airport, the delegation was received by the District Collector, Mr. K.V. Rao, and Mr. T.R. Ahuja and others. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Oct 86 p 13] /13046

TAMIL NADU COUNCIL--Madras, Oct. 23. The Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu will stand abolished with effect from November 1, 1986. A notification to this effect has been issued by the Government of India in its gazette extraordinary dated October 20. On May 14, the State Assembly passed a resolution recommending to the Centre the abolition of the Upper House. Following this, Parliament enacted in August the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Abolition Act which was to take effect from a date to be notified by the Government. On the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu Government, the Centre has fixed November 1 as the date for the abolition of the Council and issued the notification accordingly. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 24 Oct 86 p 13] /13046

CSO: 4600/1200

IRAN

MOJAHEDDIN-E KHALQ MEMBERS RECOUNT ESCAPE FROM EVIN

Geneva JOURNAL DE GENEVE in French 30 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by Therese Obrecht: "In the Ayatollahs' Prisons"; first paragraph is JOURNAL DE GENEVE introduction]

[Text] The people's mojaheddin are no altar boys, let's make that clear straightaway. Since the interdiction of their movement in June 1981, they are in a state of war against the Khomeyni regime. Tens of thousands of them have been imprisoned, tortured, or killed. Others maintain the "network: as best they can and organize attacks against the guardians of the revolution, the "pasdaran," and the revolutionary committees, which are in charge of the repression. Their leaders, headed by Mas'ud Rajavi, settled in Paris and then "moved" to Baghdad a few months ago, within the framework of a Franco-Iranian "arrangement" related to the hostages in Lebanon.

Robadegh Budaghi is 25 years old. A sweet voice, melancholy eyes under her gray scarf. She does not look like a combatant, and if one can wonder how she ended up in prison, the fact that she escaped and fled abroad clandestinely is even more amazing. An ordinary-looking young woman, if it weren't for that wound in the stomach that has disabled her for life, if it weren't for the memory of seeing her husband hung before her eyes; if it weren't for this paper full of scribbles that she clutches as if it were her most precious possession: the summary of her two years in prison, which she tells and retells down to the smallest detail, as if the almost clinical inventory of the horror could trivialize the nightmare.

The Ambush

Robadegh, a mojaheddin sympathizer, participated in meetings, which had been forbidden since 1981. And that's what happened on that day in December 1982, when she met with friends in Rashd, a town in the north of Iran. Suddenly, there was an explosion. The "pasdaran" surrounded the house: eight dead, several wounded, all arrested and thrown into prison. Three bullets were lodged in Robadegh's stomach, and she underwent a hastily improvised operation. With a ruptured colon and no medical care, she ended up in a humid cell, lying in her own excrement.

Immediately, she was taken for interrogation. They tried to obtain information about the network and the identities of the mojaheddin. "I was whipped, I received electrical shocks, and I was made to walk on my bare, bleeding feet in the snow."

In January of 1983, Robadegh was transferred to Evin, the central prison in which, according to mojaheddin estimates, 5,000 women and 10,000 men are incarcerated. "We were crammed 10 or 20 to a cell, and often we attended the torture sessions of others: whipping, a water pipe shoved down the throat, hanging from the ceiling by the wrists crossed behind the back."

Women, Choice Victims

Women, targets of a bestial obsession and of a holy contempt all at once, are entitled to a series of made-to-measure cruelties: children are beaten in the presence of their mothers or vice versa; newborns are deprived of milk and are turned over to their mothers when they are on the point of death. And then there's the punishment prescribed by the divine law, as interpreted by Ayatollah Montazeri: rape, thanks to which the gates of paradise remain closed to those who were virgins on the eve of their execution. For all that, married women do not escape rape, which takes place preferably in the presence of her husband and children, in a prison hall where several guards go at their victims. "To those that dared protest," says Robadegh, "they said: don't shout, it will be your turn soon. The intellectuals, the political militants were persecuted all the more ferociously because they had been so bold as to want to be something other than the slaves of men."

Because of her physical condition, Robadegh escaped rape, working in the sewing workshops, and having to collect the bodies after the executions in the prison courtyard. On the other hand, she was forced to cling to the bars of her cell in order to watch her husband's hanging. More dead than alive, she was transferred to a hospital, where her mojaheddin friends took her in thanks to the complicity of nurses, before "passing" her from one town to another all the way to Kurdistan, on Iran's western border. In March 1984, she arrived in Paris. There she is staying with friends and receives medical care.

Evin, Stage Right

Behzad Naziri is 27 years old. Small, thin, with a solemn face, he speaks French fluently. From 1979 to 1981, he studied geology in Paris. Later, he returned to Tehran as a correspondent for Agence France Presse. At that time, he had a first glimpse of the Evin prison when he accompanied a team from TF 1 there. "The prison that was shown to us look like a boarding school: cells with all the conveniences, prisoners chanting hymns to Khomeyni's glory and making uniforms for the Holy War."

One fine day, three months later, he was arrested on the street and taken to Evin: "The interrogations lasted for hours; I was whipped and beaten, then they shoved sharp objects into the wounds and other sensitive parts. This took place in a vast hall which resembled a butcher shop. Blood everywhere,

prisoners suspended from the ceiling, tied up on table, lying on the ground. All of them gagged, tortured until they fainted." There were no screams, but instead slogans broadcast over loudspeakers.

With a detached voice, Behzad enumerates the entire array of cruelties. The insomnia treatment: the prisoners were forced to remain standing and blindfolded in the snow, sometimes for several days--and were given a beating every time they collapsed with fatigue. Then the cage, in which some spent months, crouched down, and were fed dry bread. "In general, they received a blow on the head at the sound of the bread crunching," says Behzad, "and depending on the desired shape and depth of the wound, they would use the appropriate type of whip: woven, knotted, with leather threads, with cable, etc."

What remains of the solidarity among the prisoners in this state of degradation and dehumanization? "Any contact was forbidden and the slightest thing that hinted at any form of organization was severely punished. But clandestine networks survived inside the prison, and every transfer was an opportunity to get some news from the outside."

Behzad spent 6 months in Evin, digging canals, carrying loads and cadavers, attending sham executions, counting death-blows in the early morning. Then he was transferred to Ghezelhessar, 40 kilometers from the capital. He spent two and a half years in a prison that dated back to the times of the Shah, confined with around 50 others in a cell measuring fifteen square meters. "We took turns sleeping in the midst of unimaginable filth and stench; the interrogations and the whippings continued. Our daily ration was never more than a piece of bread and a mouthful of broth."

Madness, Sole Sign of Humanity

Did he ever notice the slightest sign of humanity on the part of a guard? "Most of them were sadistic, as if they were drunk with the absolute power that they have over the prisoners. However, I saw several guards go mad in the midst of the carnage, and it is said that there are many of them interned in the psychiatric hospitals."

At the time of a new transfer back to Evin, Behzad took advantage of a moment of inattention by the "pasdaran" and escaped with a group of mojaheddin that came to the spot, apparently on the basis of good information. Like Robadegh,, he reached the border by passing through the "network," but in the direction of Pakistan. In October 1985, upon his arrival in Paris, he was invited to the set of TF 1. The film made two years before at Evin was played, but this time with Behzad's commentaries.

What is he afraid of while denouncing the regime abroad? "Whatever could happen to me matters little. My father was imprisoned after my escape. My mother lost her mind after my sister's execution." Behzad, his face expressionless, as if he were shrivelled up inside his too-large gray suit, looks even thinner.

There it is. Testimonials with all their subjective content. Everyday words to describe the abomination. Accounts of torture that we don't have the means to verify; the Iranian prisons, like many others, do not receive journalists beyond their anterooms, if that. As tangible proof, all Robadegh and Behzad can show is their wounds and their scars.

13318/13104
CSO: 4619/4

IRAN

DUBAYY MARKET ENJOYING RARE 'BOOM'

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 16 Oct 86 p 15

[Article by Latha Nayar]

[Text]

A BRISK and sustained buying spree by Iranians has sent the graph of re-exports soaring—and also cleaned out the Dubai market of a variety of consumer goods and semi-industrial items.

Twenty to 25 heavily-laden dhows are leaving each day from the Creek and Hamriya, taking foodstuff and other scarce items ranging from electric bulbs and LDP sheets (polythene) to cycle tubes and automobile spares. The textile trade too is thriving on exceptionally heavy orders.

"It is a kind of boom," says a pleased general trader who has been doing business with Iran for over three decades. "At the moment the Iranians are buying just about everything from rice and tea to car tyres. The market is lively once again."

Bulk buying by visiting Iranian traders has upset the indenting schedules of several merchants here, but nobody is complaining. "After a long time things are looking up because the amount of goods they want is astounding," he adds.

Although barter trade is said to be widely prevalent, most merchants are trading on a 'strictly cash' basis. According to them, hardly any letters of credit have been opened since December last year.

Prices are up for several of the items which are in heavy demand, like Thailand rice, and the volume of business being done now has given Dubai merchants the confidence to increase their import orders in various categories.

A general survey of the market showed Iranian buying had infused some hope on the trade front where re-exports to the war-torn country have struggled to keep pace with the reduced levels of 1985.

"Demand for foodstuffs and other goods is excellent," says Hari Parpia of a long-established import-export firm. "I am sending ten containers of tea every month, and remember I am a small merchant."

Another, who sold over 30,000 threaded electric bulbs in a day, says the entire supply with wholesalers in Dubai was bought up in bulk purchases last fortnight. He has ordered five containerloads of this item and says regretfully, "If I had it with me now I could have made a big profit!"

Shortage of Thailand rice for the Iranian market pushed up the price from a steady Dh36 per bag to as much as Dh50 last month, and although stocks have been replenished, brisk demand is keeping the price at Dh40, market sources reported.

Textiles too have been enjoying a good market and at least one indenter said his Iran business had shot up to around Dh100,000 a fortnight since August.

Trading circles in Dubai said the acute shortages in Iran had fuelled the mini boom, dispelling earlier fears that Teheran's declared objective of cutting imports by half would deal a body blow to this market. The only category affected so far has been machinery and transport equipment (which includes tractors, pick-ups and cars) whose offtake has dipped sharply from Dh167.5 million in the first six months of 1985 to Dh53.5 million up to June this year.

As such the total re-export to Iran is not likely to cross last year's figure of Dh614.5 million when the country re-emerged as the top re-export destination after a five-year hiatus. All the same, traders are hopeful that the recent pick-up will allow this entrepot to match last year's performance.

Giving credence to such optimism is the rise in dhow traffic to Iranian ports. The first six months of 1986 saw 3,450 such vessels leave for Iran against 1,994 in the corresponding period of last year. After a slowdown in the middle of the year traffic is once again heavy in the Gulf waterway, adding daily to the tonnages on the re-export chart.

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CSO: 4600/62

NEPAL

BRIEFS

ARRIVAL OF PRC'S PANCHEN LAMA--Katmandu, 24 Nov (AFP)--The Panchen Lama, the number two lama of Tibetan Buddhism after the Dalai Lama and the most senior lama to reside in China, arrived here Monday for a week-long visit, an official source said. The Pachen Lama is in Katamandu for the 15th conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists. He is also due to fly by helicopter to Lumpini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, to pay homage. The Panchen Lama, who is a vice-chairman of China's National People's Congress (NPC), is at the head of an NPC goodwill delegation. This is the first foreign visit by the Panchen Lama since the Dalai Lama fled into exile after an abortive anti-Chinese uprising in Tibet in 1959. He is due to meet Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyay on Thursday and Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha on Friday, and have an audience with King Birendra before he leaves on Sunday. Among those at the airport here to welcome the Panchen Lama were several Tibetans, including lamas and monks, who knelt as he passed. Nepal is home to a large number of Tibetan exiles. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1548 GMT 24 Nov 86 BK] /9738

CSO: 4600/64

PAKISTAN

BHUTTO EXPRESSES VIEWS ON BASE FACILITIES FOR U.S.

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Article by Tariq Butt]

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct. 31: Ms. Benazir Bhutto, PPP's Co-Chairperson, Friday night said the reports that Pakistan has given an air base to the Americans were a cause of "grave concern" for the nation. She demanded of rulers to make their position clear whether they had done anything of this kind.

She however, denied she had any authentic information that Pakistan had allowed the Americans use of the Maudipur air base, as alleged by former Finance Minister, Dr. Mubashar Hasan.

On her arrival from Lahore here, she told newsmen that if the authorities had provided base facility to the Americans they had violated the "independent and non-aligned" character of the country.

She said though the People's Party did not approve of it yet late Ayub Khan's had advisably made it known that he was joining the CENTO.

Ms. Bhutto said the consequences of getting lot of military hardware would be disastrous for the country. A country gains strength from the prosperity of its masses and not from stockpiles of ammunition and weapons. She said the real security of the country lay in the unity of the nation and progress.

The PPP chief said that Pakistan's securing of AWACS and other sophisticated weapons had many implications she added "we should keep in view our relations with the Indians, which are now at their lowest ebb". She felt that such a situation, in fact, weakened the country.

.. She said that the Qaid-e-Azam achieved a separate homeland for the Muslims on the strength of determination of the masses. "We should not therefore have mediocre cowardly and thoughtless leadership for defending the country".

Ms. Bhutto said that her party viewed seriously the discontentment prevailing among the masses due to the present unrepresentative rule. She said the eruption of agitation in Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar recently following the killing of students and settlers by the Police bomb blast and exchange of firing between the transporters were a proof that the people were disgusted with the present set up.

.. She said the situation was very explosive and a big blaze may break out any time even, which would be uncontrollable.

The ensuing situation would bring more chaos, anarchy and confusion in the country. But she said, the administration was doing nothing.

Ms Bhutto demanded a judicial probe by a High Court judge into Friday's incidents in Karachi and Hyderabad where several "Mohajir and Pathans" were killed. She condemned what she called the "carnage and savage" killings. "The rulers have sucked the blood of more innocent and hapless masses".

The PPP leader strongly contradicted a news item appearing in a section of the press that her party was ready to negotiate with President Zia. There is no such proposal or likelihood", she said emphatically.

She criticised the recent increase in the "abians" in Sind and demanded its withdrawal. She said the increase was totally unjustified

when viewed in the perspective of the government policy, and manifold rise in the prices of pesticide, fertilisers etc. "The government was deliberately creating a new rural poverty".

Ms Bhutto paid rich tributes to those who had suffered and sacrificed for the party. At the same time, she condemned the "atrocities" committed by the authorities against political dissidents.

She said a curfew-like situation was created by the police in Lahore when she went to the High Court for addressing the Bar Association. The police baton-charged the peaceful visitors in the compound of the Mayo Hospital, when she left it after seeing the injured Ghulam Abbas, a PPP worker. Ms Bhutto said the victims were treated by the lathi clutching policemen as if they were not human beings. When the Duty Magistrate was asked about the cause of the lathi charge, he

said he had given no instructions in this regard. She said that the police according to the magistrate were acting on the direct instructions from the Chief Minister.

Ms Bhutto said that the claim of restoring democracy had been exposed fully in the wake of increased restrictions imposed by its champions. Police barriers and blockades in the way of her processions were another example of their false assertions. She said the administration had clamped section 144 in all cities,

she planned to visit.

She was happy over her successful tour of the Punjab province and thanked her supporters for attending her meetings and processions in larger numbers inspite of greater hurdles created by the administration. She claimed that she had addressed unprecedented public meetings during her tour.

/13046

CSO: 4600/59

PAKISTAN

NOORANI CLAIMS U.S. MANNED AWACS 'ZIONIST CONSPIRACY'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Nov 86 p 6

[Article by Anwar Sabir]

[Text]

SIALKOT, Nov 2: In view of dangers hovering on our eastern and western borders, Pakistan has every right to acquire the needed defence equipment from all sources open to us, but deployment of AWACS manned by US personnel is a Zionist conspiracy aimed at striking at our nuclear installations.

This was stated by Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, the JUP chief while addressing a big public meeting here on Oct 31. The Maulana reminded the nation that Israel had never made secret of its nefarious designs to destroy our nuclear installation at Kahuta, in what he said, collaboration with India. Logically, therefore, he said thoughtlessly entrusting the defence of Pakistan's frontiers to U.S. amounted to bartering away our freedom and becoming a hostage to Zionist diabolical designs.

Maulana Noorani said that Saudi Arabia had also acquired these AWACS but instead of helping that country these led to destru-

ction of Iraq's nuclear plant because the AWACS were manned by American fliers. "We do not need American clutches to defend our motherland", the Maulana declared.

Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani again mentioning serious threats, internal and external, facing the country, however, accused the rulers of deliberately keeping the nation in dark about these potential threats to our very existence. He said that air space violation by Afghanistan had become a daily routine and the loss of Siachen Glacier, a strategic vital area, did no more move the rulers.

The JUP chief warned that the crisis gripping the country could not be successfully resolved by an unrepresentative regime; only truly elected government could ward away the dangers.

The Maulana lashed out at Generals 'who have already lost to us half of the country founded with great sacrifices by the Muslims of the subcontinent under the

dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

Elaborating his party's programme the Maulana said that Pakistan should acquire nuclear capability for defending the country's frontiers especially because India had done it many years ago.

The Maulana accused the Generals of damaging the prestige of the country in the comity of nations. "We are now more known as narcotics smugglers, the world over" he pointed out. He also lashed out at bureaucracy and said these people had fleeced the people. About law and order situation, he said it was never so worse as it is now with life and property of the citizens always exposed to insecurity without any serious steps from the so-called federal or provincial governments to tackle the ever deteriorating internal situation. In fact, he said, the internal turmoil had stemmed from prolonged authoritarian rule.

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PAKISTAN

'ECONOMIC BONDAGE' TO FOREIGN AID DEPLORED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 6 Nov 86 p 5

[Text]

MORE INSTANCES of the dangerous implications of Pakistan's bondage to the aid-giving countries and institutions have been revealed in recent weeks. The particularly galling ones are the difficulty faced by WAPDA in getting a World Bank loan instalment, because of its failure to keep the pledge to raise its tariff this year, and the possibility of the Asian Development Bank withholding credit on account of the Government's failure to enhance 'abiana'. Both the demands on the Government are difficult to concede, indeed it is hard to see how the power and water rates can be increased. WAPDA has been raising electricity charges year after year and any further increase will be unbearable for both domestic and industrial consumers. In the case of the former, an addition to the cost of lighting will cause impermissible decline in living standards, and, in the case of the latter, rising energy charges will affect production with a direct impact on prices and export performance. Besides, nothing has happened to dispel the people's impression that they are being fleeced by a white elephant and made to

pay for its shortsightedness in planning, monumental inefficiency and rampant corruption.

The plea for an increase in the cost of irrigation water is even more untenable. As in case of electricity, any addition to the already high rates will impose a severe burden on the entire farming community, including the large number of cultivators of uneconomic holdings. It is a pity that the Government has never been able free itself from the urban accountant's view of irrigation charges. The concept that the cost, again inflated, of irrigation works should be extracted from agriculturists in the form of a user's charge militates against the present definition of a welfare, or even economically sane, State. Our administrators have yet to realise that 'abiana' is a necessary investment in material and human resources both. By ensuring adequate irrigation supplies the State facilitates colonisation of virgin lands and increase in farm output, thereby reducing reliance on the import of foodgrains. The returns on expenditure on irrigation should be counted in terms of imports avoided and, likewise, in terms of material advancement of the rural manpower that agriculture's progress should ensure.

Unfortunately, these two instances reveal only a part of the strain on the nation's economy resulting from patently unfair and exploitative agreements that the reckless custodians of its finances have negotiated with the international creditors. That loans cannot be secured without firm guarantees of repayment is understandable. Not at all understandable is Pakistan's readiness to accept the mode of generating funds to meet each liability, regardless of the grim consequences of such commitments to the common man. That all or most Third World countries are in similar predicament is not a complete answer. Nor is it wholly convincing. Countries that refuse to diversify their economic relations for compulsions born of lopsided external policies cannot blame everything on the toughness of credit cartels. Some of the rigours of economic bondage, if not all, are of their own choosing.

Apart from the obligation to surrender to the diktat of international moneylenders, Pakistan has invited another form of servitude in the economic field — the effect of the Afghanistan policy on the home markets. That the whole country has been turned into a sprawling 'bara' is no longer a cynical remark attributable to disgruntled politicians. No free Government can helplessly

watch the destruction of indigenous goods trade and erosion of the manufacturing sector at the hands of smugglers thinly disguised as holy crusaders. The costs of such complacency are bound to be exacted from the people in the form of galloping consumerism, increase in ostentation, and growth of black economy. The evils born of the present lack of economic discipline and failure to adjust the State's foreign policies and political commitments to the demands of a healthy economy could blight the country's future, irreparably one is afraid. Unless the Government seriously begins an attempt to regain its economic freedom, it will run the risk of being held guilty of not only making a mess of the economy but possibly also of undermining the succeeding regimes' capacity to pull the country out of it.

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES SECTARIAN VIOLENCE, INSECURITY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Nov 86 p 4

[Commentary: "A Sense of Drift"]

[Text]

CONSPIRACY theorists will have a field day while examining Pakistan's turbulent landscape: Ethnic riots and curfew in Karachi and Hyderabad, disturbances in Quetta, bomb blasts in Peshawar and student demos in Lahore. All this adds up to a pretty bleak picture of the country and a rapidly deteriorating law and order situation. Those who always see a 'hidden hand' in such disturbances probably see it as an attempt to destabilise the somewhat shaky civilian order so that Pakistan reverts to square one. Others would not draw a linkage between these acts of violence but would attribute it to failure of the administration to control events.

A more plausible explanation could be that after eight years of clamping the lid on the country via Pakistan's longest martial law, the chickens are finally coming home to roost. Those sectors of society who were quiet but not content under the martial law years are now flexing their muscles and showing signs of restiveness. Whatever may be the nature and the underlying causes of these acts of violence, there is no doubting the fact that it does evoke a sense of drift in the country.

What is important for the Government is to provide the hapless citizens of Pakistan with a sense of security as well as direction. Losing nerves as was the case on August 14, or using purely strong-arm measures to quell disturbances will further accentuate an already disturbed situation. The differences between an elected civilian government and a military regime should be apparent not only in the means that are used by both to settle what in bureaucratic

jargon is referred to as a "law and order situation" but also in the extent to which confidence is reposed by the people.

Agitations, unrest and protests should be considered as an integral part of any normal democracy. The reaction to it by the administration should not necessarily be alarmist. Neither should every expression of street power be viewed as a challenge to State power. Hopefully, this sense of drift will be halted so that a feeling of despondency and helplessness does not add to the fear of the citizens.

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PAKISTAN

FILM SAID TO SHOW ARMY ATROCITIES ON SIND VILLAGE

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 30 Oct 86 p 12

[Text]

FOR TWO days this past week the Malik Ghulam Jilani Foundation debated the violation of human rights the world over.

But it was a short film, a video from Sind, which turned the heart over.

There was once upon a time a small village in Sind, just about 300 houses or so, simple folk occupied them, cultivators, some unskilled labourers working around, for the village was on a metalled road, just the right place for a small army to descend upon — which it did in August last. The sin the villagers had committed was that they were mostly supporters of the PPP and had even dared to display a few flags. Ahmed Khan Brahmani, the village is called, was, for it is hardly a village now. Many of the houses are mere shelters, the cattle have been driven off, the men and women left utterly destitute, and the children wandering around, not knowing what happened on that fateful day.

The film was made by amateurs after the 5,000 jawans, rangers and police parties had left. They had bombed, machine-gunned and blown up this peaceful village on the pretext of 'hunting and rooting out' dacoits.

The video was Rafiq Safi's contribution to the seminar. Safi served eight years in prison for the usual 'crimes' for which people have been yanked off and jailed all over Pakistan. So he and a few other amateurs got together and filmed the remains of what was a very peaceful village. The camera ran over the ruins, and the people told their

stories in their own simple language and two voices super-imposed it in English. There were also imposed noises of human terror, and machine-gunning. Men were rounded up, women were dragged out of the houses, cash was stolen, even the mosque suffered damage. There were positively no dacoits, it was sheer punishment. Corn was burnt, cooking-pots damaged, beddings made utterly useless, unexploded rockets were shown, and the remains of all kinds of hardware. No water, no food — "We were treated like kafirs. . ." It is there, we all saw it, and were asked to comment afterwards. What one can say to such barbarity, to such heinous cruelty, the heavens only know. Lifelong possessions strewn around, some houses reduced to rubble. Dazed Sindhi workers telling the story, old women, who had been kicked around, old men with hardly a few years to live, told the tale of what was a holocaust.

Rafiq Safi now heads a prisoners and human rights group, a highly educated man who took the Socialist International representative round when he recently came to the area. All allegations were verified.

So this peaceful village was 'made an example of' — but it extends further than that, said Safi — anyone who knows a dacoit, or knows anyone who knows a 'dacoit', will also be made an example of — so what is the answer — the gradual extermination of the brave people of the villages of Sind?

It was naked war. And, yes, there will be no compensation. — "Viewer"

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PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY VIEWS 'MOJAHIR' FACTOR IN SIND POLITICS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Nov 86 p 4

[Article by Minhaj Barna]

[Text]

Whether one likes it or not, the emergence of the "Mohajir" factor in the politics of Sind has to be taken note of. A few years back it was reflected only in an attitude projecting certain grievances on the part of those who migrated from India, mostly from U.P., C.P., Bihar, Rajputana and Hyderabad Deccan. It has never taken the shape of an organised political movement. It was the objective conditions in the backdrop of the Pakistan Movement that came in the way of uniting them into one political entity. Initially most of them were either members of the Muslim League or had sympathy for the founding party. They were ardent supporters of the Pakistan Movement and its leaders like Quaid-e-Azam and Quaid-e-Millat.

Until 1965 they continued to support the Muslim League and wholeheartedly backed Miss Fatima Jinnah's candidature against Field Marshal Ayub Khan. But their attitude changed gradually with changing socio-political conditions. In the 1970 elections their votes were divided among various political parties such as the Muslim League, the JUP of Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, and the Jamaat-e-Islami. But 1971 trauma and separation of East Pakistan dealt a deadly blow to their dream of a Pakistan as a haven for "all the Muslims of the Subcontinent".

They came to Pakistan to save themselves from what they used to describe as "oppression and exploitation of Hindus". Later they came to know of other kinds of discriminations and exploitation.

ECONOMIC DISTRESS

Initially they were living in the capital of the country with a number of Mohajir ICS officers occupying the seats of power. Many of them, with the help of influential people, were able to compensate for their sufferings of migration by acquiring evacuee properties. But suchfortunates were not more than 10 to 15 per cent. The other Mohajirs continued to live in jhuggies and kutchi abadis and in economic distress like most other citizens of the country.

As stated earlier, until the end of the sixties the Mohajirs of Sind used to support those who held power in the Centre. But with the shifting of the capital from Karachi and gradual decrease in their representation in the civil services and later due to the events of 1971 leading to the surrender of the Pakistan army and establishment of Bangladesh, their political thinking underwent a considerable change. During the seventies events like language riots added to their disillusionment about their concept of Pakistan. Objective conditions and political development, negated their perception of the Muslims being one nation. They were later confronted with Bengali, Sindhi, Baluchi, Pathan and Punjabi nationalisms. Their concept of unity and statehood on the basis of religion — Islam — was shattered and the disillusionment led them to think of safeguarding their economic interests on the basis of a separate entity.

THE MOVEMENT

How far this process has struck firm roots and whether there is an entity like "Mohajir", qaumiya or nationality is yet to be historically proved. But the emergence of "Mohajir Qaumi Movement" led until recently by an unknown personality, Altaf Hussain, has to be taken note of. How this organisation has come with a bang on the political stage in Karachi and the interior of Sind should be a subject for a case study. A few years back one used to find only slogans in its favour scribbled on the walls of Karachi. However, when the Movement held its first public meeting on August 14 last at the Nishtar Park and the number of audience it attracted left many an observer wondering regarding its size and strength and the source of its inspiration. The next public meeting it held in Hyderabad on Friday last was even bigger according to reports. The meeting, however, led to ethnic clashes (not with Sindhis) involving several casualties and imposition of curfew in parts of Karachi and Hyderabad. The question as to how this clash took place and who was responsible for it can only be determined by an impartial judicial inquiry. But what is not understood is why Sohrab Goth has been allowed to become an arms dump and a narcotics den with a throwing Bara market mostly controlled by Afghan refugees.

What is the political thesis of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement? This can be gathered from the speeches made by its leader, Altaf Hussain. He said: "The Mohajirs from India living in Sind are a separate ethnic entity and a nationality as they share a common language, history and economic interests. They have come to settle in Sind for all times. They consider Sind as their permanent home. They draw their

livelihood from Sind and spend their earnings in Sind. (Not like "others" by others he means people from Punjab and NWFP who earn here and spend their earnings somewhere else.) The Sindhis are brothers of Mohajirs. They have to live and die together and struggle together for a bright future. Those who create dissensions between them are neither friends of Mohajirs nor of Sindhis. The Sindhis should also accept Mohajirs as a nationality living in Sind side by side. The Mohajirs would neither like to be masters nor slaves. They want equal treatment and a proportionate share in the cake according to their population. But Mohajirs would not like to divide Sind or to convert Sindhis into Red Indians as others would like to do."

WRONG POLICIES

Regarding his meeting with Mr. G.M. Syed and Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, Altaf Hussain said he would meet everyone for the common interest; if need be with Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Makhdoom Khaliqzaman. According to him because of the vested interests at the helm of affairs at the Centre, the federal structure of the country has turned hollow and because of wrong policies of the rulers the country's freedom and integrity is in danger.

Altaf said that although he would like the Biharis to be repatriated to Pakistan his Movement is opposed to the role played by them there. He has criticised the role of Jamaat-backed "Al Shams" and "Al Badar" also. At MQM's Hyderabad meeting he also called for unity among the smaller nationalities, an approach that was anathema to Mohajirs; initially they never believed in nationalities and thought all Muslims as one nation.

It appears that the primary concern of the MQM is to ensure a fair existence for Mohajirs in terms of jobs and employment and representation in civil services and admissions in educational institutions along with safeguards for

Urdu language. However, their very approach make adversaries of those who have come to Sind from other provinces mainly from Punjab and NWFP in search of jobs and business. The MQM is, in particular, opposed to those who have what it describes as people with "double domiciles" and "divided loyalties".

ETHNIC GROUPS

This has led to conflict of interest between various ethnic groups, particularly in Karachi, now a multi-ethnic metropolis. And yet the ethnic entities were living in peace until the advent of Martial Law in 1977 when under the authoritarian rule the social contradictions were deepened—sometimes on their own and sometimes because of a "hidden hand". Never in the short history of Pakistan have so many sectarian and ethnic riots taken place as witnessed during the last 8 or 9 years of Martial Law. One of the main sources of such conflicts is the transport system of the city. A large number of buses, mini-buses, taxis and auto-rickshaws are owned by or hired out to members of one ethnic group (not Mohajirs or Sindhis) and whenever an accident occurs due to rash driving, resulting in the death of pedestrians or passengers, the members of that ethnic group become the main target of the wrath of the people belonging to other ethnic groups. The sufferers are the poor people on both sides. In such situations the springs are pulled by the rich and influential vested interests.

The emergence of MQM has also led directly or indirectly to the formation of such groups as "Punjabi-Pathan Ittehad". There was a time when there used to be a "Mohajir-Punjabi-Pathan Ittehad" mainly aimed against the Sindhis. No one now hears about it. It appears that economic and other interests are paving the way for a closer "Sindhi-Mohajir" ittehad and the gradual evolution of a Mohajir entity, if not a nationality. What will be its future impact on the politics of Sind and the country at large is yet to be fully assessed.

With the ever-deteriorating law and order situation in the province and induction of troops in the interior, Sind seems to have become the No. 1 problem of the country. The use of force can hardly tackle the issue. Political problems have to be solved politically. The real solution lies in a return to a genuine democratic order as early as possible.

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

AHMADIS ARRESTED--Karachi, Nov. 1: Two Ahmadi shop-keeper on Drigh Road have been arrested by police under presidential ordinance No. 20 for exhibiting stickers in their respective shops with the words "Ya-Allah, Ya-Mohammad" and Wallah-o-Khairur-Razeqeen", according to a press release issued by the Ahmadia Association. The Press release said the ordinance does not prohibit use of such Quranic adjectives like "Wallah-o-Khairur-Razeqeen". The Association has sought intervention by the governor, chief minister, home secretary and I.G. police in the matter. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Nov 86 p 6] /13046

REFUGEES: JAMAAT CRITICIZES PLAN--Peshawar, Nov. 1: Two top provincial leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami NWFP have assailed the rulers for their alleged patronising of traitors. In a statement, the J.I. NWFP secretary general Mohammad Ibrahim Khan and the party's Peshawar chief Shabbir Khan criticised Chief Minister Arbab Jehangir for saying that Afghan refugees would be shifted from Peshawar City because his statement gave the impression as if the refugees were behind the bomb blasts. They claimed the bombs were being exploded by local agents of the Soviet Union. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Nov 86 p 8] /13046

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